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**1997 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL**
All minds on Munich as Del Piero, Zidane and Co bid for a second successive Champions Cup, against Borussia Dortmund

**JUNE 1997**
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## Keir Radnedge
## COMMENTARY

**Flying Dutchman...but Marc Overmars and his team-mates may come down to earth with a bump**

# Ajax wheels are coming off

### *It's no longer child's play for the Dutch champions*

WHERE now for Ajax? They were well beaten in the Champions League semi-finals, a place in the competition next season appears beyond them, and there will be no Louis Van Gaal. He is off to Barcelona in a few weeks, with Morten Olsen succeeding him as coach in Amsterdam.

But do not expect radical changes in the way Ajax play, or the way they organise themselves. Olsen has been hired for his ability to provide continuity, not revolution. Ajax have a tradition as a starting gate for players of ambition – for more money, at any rate. In the past, they have coped. But now Bosman has removed the speed limits from the international transfer market, how long before the Ajax wheels come off?

Co Adrianse, long-serving youth section boss, sums up the Ajax method thus: "We believe a young player's academic education matters as much as his football education. If he is taught how to think – how to use his brain – academically, he will be better able to think his way through a big match.

"You can have two teams of equal fitness and talent levels. Then, invariably, the winning team will be the one with greater football intelligence."

Ajax products down the years have exemplified that. Indeed, some observers may think Ajax's finest players have spent too much time on independent thought. That's why so many Dutch club and national team campaigns have foundered on internecine strife, with top players squabbling among themselves and with coaches and managers over tactics and selections.

You can see how the baton has been passed down, starting with Johan Cruyff, who joined the club as a 12-year-old and was promoted to the first team as a teenager by English manager Vic Buckingham. Cruyff won the Champions Cup three times in a row, the European Footballer of the Year prize three times, and captained Holland to runners-up spot at the 1974 World Cup. He moved to Barcelona in 1973 for a then world record of £922,000 – and repeated his glorious footsteps later as coach with the same clubs.

But the Ajax dynasty had already become self-perpetuating.

In one of Cruyff's last matches at Ajax, he stepped out of the action early to allow a teenage reserve named Marco Van Basten to take his place. Van Basten progressed swiftly to lead Holland's attack at the World Youth Cup, then top-scored season after season before captaining Ajax – and hitting their decisive goal – in the 1987 Cup-winners Cup defeat of Lokomotiv Leipzig.

A few weeks later, Van Basten transferred to Milan with who he won the World Club Cup, the European Champions Cup, Supercup and the Italian title with one of the great sides of the late 20th century.

Just as Cruyff had been succeeded by Van Basten, so Van Basten was succeeded by Dennis Bergkamp, a schoolboy when he made his Ajax debut in the mid-1980s. Once, playing at Malmo in European competition, Ajax brought out Bergkamp on the day of the game because he had been sitting college examinations the previous afternoon.

In due course, after the 1992 UEFA Cup victory, Ajax sold Bergkamp to Internazionale, from where he moved to Arsenal. This time, the succession was taken over by Clarence Seedorf. In 1995, he was a teenager but held the midfield anchor role as Ajax defeated Milan to win the Champions Cup Final in Vienna.

Seedorf's contract expired that summer. Ajax wanted him to stay, despite transfer offers from Italy, France and Spain. But Seedorf was impatient to taste foreign fruits. He moved to Italy, but his 1995-96 season with Sampdoria was unsatisfactory. He struggled to adapt to Italian football, resenting the ironclad tactical discipline. He was only too pleased, last summer, to move to one of his original admirers, Real Madrid, for who he has been outstanding this term.

Behind Seedorf, of course, the talent kept bubbling up at Ajax. Patrick Kluivert scored the winning goal in that 1995 Champions Cup triumph over Milan. Where Seedorf left, Kluivert decided to stay. Six months later it was Kluivert who scored the two goals against the Irish Republic in a play-off which rewarded Holland with a place in the 1996 European Championship finals

Injuries and off-field complications have restricted Kluivert over the past year, but few Dutch fans have much doubt he will sparkle again after moving to Italy this summer with Milan – just as predecessor Van Basten sparkled a decade earlier.

But now even Ajax are beginning to worry the youth development scene is changing. The Bosman Ruling by the European Court of Justice took off the transfer shackles. The kids can go just as soon as they like – which means as fast as the most avaricious of agents can sell them.

Morten Olsen as King Canute? He's on a hiding to nothing.

## League Cup is losing value

ENGLAND'S football authorities want their bread buttered on both sides as far as the League Cup is concerned.

Protests and complaints have been raised with UEFA over the European governing body's insistence that, from 1998-99, only countries with a top division of a maximum 18 clubs will be permitted a UEFA Cup place for their League Cup winners.

FA chief executive Graham Kelly, says: "They seem hell-bent on reducing top divisions to 18 clubs. We have tried to persuade them this is illogical because what happens in English domestic football does not affect the European calendar...it is difficult to persuade UEFA of English football's strength in depth. They do not seem to understand there are 92 professional clubs."

But are we supposed to envisage Bristol Rovers, say, or Rotherham, competing in the UEFA Cup?

Let's face it, the League Cup (under whichever sponsorship banner) is a devalued exercise. It is not organised by the top English League division. Yet the UEFA Cup is a prestige event for those leading clubs not involved in the other two European tournaments. Only the Premier League can provide such clubs. The League Cup is an accident of recent history. One clause in the agreement creating the Premier League was that its clubs would continue to participate in the League Cup – albeit with some

reluctance, as their weakened team line-ups in recent years demonstrate.

The English authorities say UEFA's diktat does not take into account the reasons why the Premier League maintains a top-heavy 20 clubs. But just try asking Alex Ferguson if he is happy with a 38-match League season!

From UEFA's point of view, the inherent weakness of League cups is they do not guarantee the participation of a high-ranking club in the UEFA Cup. And, of course, that is all the more important now that the championship runners-up from the eight leading countries are being creamed off into the Champions League.

James...This time Hoddle does the dropping

## No joy for James

DAVID JAMES was unfortunate to be omitted from England's World Cup squad against Georgia. His butter-fingered displays for Liverpool against Manchester United and Paris St Germain plus his nervy debut against Mexico meant he could not continue in goal against Georgi Kinkladze and Co. But squad selection would have helped his confidence and working with England's coaches might have produced a pointer or two overlooked by over-familiarity with Liverpool's own staff.

## Not much benefit for Bosman

THE measly 2,000 attendance for the Bosman benefit match in Barcelona's Olympic stadium offered a word of warning to Diego Maradona, Eric Cantona and their pals in the new international players' union.

Fans, I believe, generally accept that footballers should enjoy the same contract rights as other workers. But there is little sympathy for fat-cat players putting enormous pay packets into back pockets. Montjuich proved the point.

Not that the players are the only ones with their heads in the sand. UEFA still insists member federations should press their governments for a European Union codicil taking sport out of the control of the Treaty of Rome.

Don't they know that the horse bolted long ago?

Attempts, in the meantime, to enforce a six-year contract on teenagers signing their first professional contracts are also doomed to failure. The European Commission has stated clearly that the length of the contract would constitute restraint of trade.

The most likely next development will be the enforcement of no-fee transfers for ALL players out of contract in the European Union, whether moving between countries or within them.

## Braun in black and white

EGIDIUS BRAUN was absolutely right: there WAS a gentleman's agreement in force to help England secure hosting rights to the finals of the 1996 European Championship. But...it was not an agreement with Germany, it was an agreement with France.

The deal was brokered by Sir Bert Millichip (maybe, in his confusion, that's the one he meant!) and demanded that England stay out of the bidding for the 1998 World Cup as *quid pro quo*. The Football Association, in effect, had put UEFA's single-country policy into effect even before UEFA had dreamed it up!

Now both England and Germany have been cleared by UEFA's executive to carry on preparing their bids for 2006. One or other will be the likely overall winner as well, according to no less an authoritative source than FIFA president Joao Havelange. Asked about the dispute, he commented most future World Cups would be in Europe because Europe had eight members on the FIFA executive and the rest of the world's delegates found it impossible ever to get their joint act together.

Roman types...Manchester United prepare to launch their latest replica kit

## Renaissance man

ERIC CANTONA has bought this amazing study by Michael Browne which features him – surrounded by Manchester United team-mates as well as Caesar Ferguson – in resurrection pose. An appropriate image, indeed, as United consider starting all over again in the Champions League next season.

The painting is entitled *The Art of the Game* and is based on an original idea by Piero Della Francesca, a superstar of the 15th century.

Barcelona benefit...Maradona does a star

Incidentally, one hopes UEFA has learned one lesson from the 2006 fiasco: decisions should be properly recorded and publicised in future. Then nobody could grumble.

## The No-Go InterToto

THE InterToto Cup has been given a stay of execution as an alternative route into the UEFA Cup. Once again, it will carry that status this summer. But next year, the InterToto is virtually certain to return to its original role as a provider only of summer football fixtures for continental Europe's pools network.

While the likes of Italy, Spain and England stand aloof it cannot be deemed a proper qualifying arm of the UEFA Cup.

The experiment was worth trying but, in today's crowded calendar, was always doomed.

# One hell of a beating

## Sacchi won't be forgiven for this mauling of Milan, says Gavin Hamilton

**Six of the best...San Siro's scoreboard tells the story**

IT WAS the best of times, it was the worst of times. Complete and utter humiliation for Milan; confirmation for Juventus that the balance of power in Italian football has shifted back to Turin after a decade of Milanese dominance.

Six-one! In Milan! Arrigo Sacchi, your boys took one *hell* of a beating. The worse home beating, in fact, in the 98-year history of the *Rossoneri*. A defeat from which Sacchi is unlikely to recover.

"It was one of those days when everything you do goes wrong," Milan's coach conceded afterwards. "An evening to forget in a hurry." Unfortunately for Sacchi, the former Italian national boss, people are unlikely to be that forgiving. "In another 100 years, people will still talk about this result, how Milan conceded six goals and surrendered their League title to their historic rivals," declared a front page editorial in the next day's *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Milan were awful, that goes without saying, but Juventus were awesome. Marcello Lippi's side, with half an eye on the Champions League semi-final three days later, tossed Milan aside like a cat toying with a half-dead mouse. Juve had gone into the game without several key players. No Del Piero, no Deschamps, no Montero, no Padovano, no Torricelli. No problem. Boksic limped off before half-time, but that was no more than a minor inconvenience. The Croatian striker's replacement, Amoruso, made it five with 20 minutes remaining.

Rarely has a team with so many talented individuals worked as hard as this Juventus side. Zidane, the epitome of French elegance and invention, worked his black-and-white socks off. Jugovic, the Yugoslav whose contribution is so often overlooked, tormented Reiziger all evening. Vieri, the young striker who made his debut for Italy a week earlier, gave an exemplary performance of power allied to exceptional technique.

The goals were shared between Jugovic (two), Vieri (two), Zidane and Amoruso, as if to underline Juve's strength in depth. Ironically, Simone scored the best goal of the game, for Milan, a spectacular volley from the edge of the penalty area.

Gerard Van der Lem, Louis Van Gaal's assistant at Ajax, was an uncomfortable guest in the press box, frantically making notes in preparation of the Champions League tie in Amsterdam. Oh to be a fly on the wall when he reported back to his leader.

**'Sacchi's teams hold no surprises any more. If there is a surprise, it is that he saw a future for himself back at Milan'**

San Siro was half empty on the final whistle, Milan's fans having voted with their feet. Juventus supporters, by contrast, would have stayed all night, and were savouring every second. While the remaining Milan followers called for Sacchi's head, Juve fans chanted Lippi's name. Their side may be studded with stars, world-beaters every one of them, but it is the team that is all-conquering. Who better to applaud than the man who made it all possible?

But what now for Sacchi and Milan? Much will depend on Silvio Berlusconi. Milan's president was in defiant mood after the humiliation, insisting Sacchi's job is safe. "It was a real thrashing," he said, but "Milan did not play that badly. Two-one for the black-and-whites would have been fairer. Now let me go down to the changing-rooms. I must lift Milan's morale."

Milan will need more than reassuring words from Berlusconi. The arrival this summer of Patrick Kluivert, Winston Bogarde, Christian Ziege and Luis Figo will signal some major departures. Few would bet on Sacchi being around to oversee the changes.

His second period in charge of Milan has not been happy. An embarrassing exit from the Champions League against Rosenborg was followed by indifferent form in the League. Milan are unlikely to be playing in Europe next season. That's a disaster by anybody's standards.

It's all a far cry from Sacchi's glory years at San Siro. In the late 1980s, Sacchi was the Great Innovator, the little-known coach who came from nowhere to release *calcio* from the shackles of *catenaccio*. The pressing game with which he famously became associated at Milan changed the face of Italian soccer.

Sacchi's mould-breaking approach lent itself to attacking football and allowed Milan's three Dutchmen – Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard – to display their skills to the full. The Italians in the side, Sacchi argued, responded to the Dutch trio's brilliance by raising their own game. The Italian players provided the technique and discipline, the Dutch offered the fantasy and invention, and Sacchi took the credit.

Almost a decade later, things are very diffferent. Sacchi's teams hold no surprises any more. If there is a surprise it is that Sacchi saw a future for himself back in club management after his time with the national squad. The Italian team manager's job previously had been seen as the pinnacle of a coach's career. Enzo Bearzot retired after his successes at the 1982 World Cup. Azeglio Vicini dabbled in coaching after handing over to Sacchi in 1991, but was for all intents and purposes a spent force.

Sacchi, the Italian Graham Taylor, believed he could return to club management as if nothing had changed. Instead, his past has caught up with him. Sacchi failed with Italy because he never realised, or was never prepared to accept, that the national side could never be a club side. He was playing a different game. He is failing with Milan in 1997 because the game has moved on. The Bosman ruling means Milan can no longer buy the three best foreigners. A different approach is required.

Juventus are now masters of the pressing game, but they have taken the tactics developed by Sacchi at Milan and allied them to a more thoughtful approach. Milan have been left playing catch-up.

One moment stands out from all the rest on a memorable night at San Siro. A moment which encapsulates Juve's dominance and Milan's fall from grace.

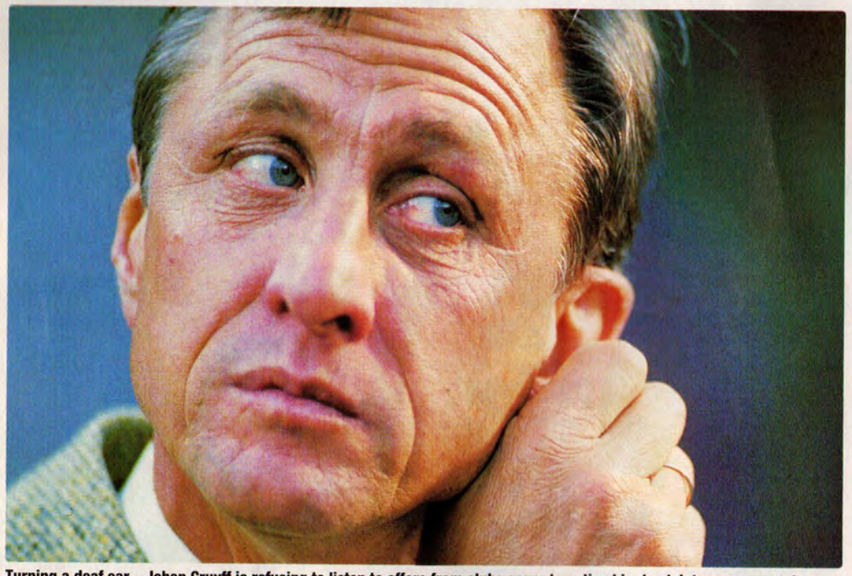
In the 80th minute, Vieri collected the ball 30 yards out and accelerated past a tired and bewildered Baresi, just as a brand new convertible would overtake a clapped-out jalopy, easily, gleefully, disdainfully. Baresi, Milan's captain, the symbol of a decade of glorious success, was helpless as Vieri shot past Rossi for Juve's sixth goal.

It was the final insult on a humiliating night for Milan.

**Dazed and confused...Sacchi (above); Baresi (right)**

# Don't Cruyff for me

## *Graham Turner sees Johan reach 50 in the slow lane*



**Turning a deaf ear...Johan Cruyff is refusing to listen to offers from clubs eager to entice him back into management**

HE'S OUT of work, but he's not crying about it. In fact, he's loving every minute. Football's loss seems to be Cruyff's gain.

He's tanned, relaxed and jovial, quite happy to leave the adrenalin, the blood pressure and the worry beads to the people who whirl around him in the maelstrom of the modern game. He's found a nice, quiet place in the eye of the football hurricane.

The whole of Holland went into a whirl about his 50th birthday on April 25. Two books were published; practically every newspaper published special supplements; radio stations filled AM and FM with JC (Radio 2 managed just over 10 hours); and the Internet offered interviews, biographies and, on the www.cruyff.com website, opportunities for surfers to wish the maestro many happy returns of the great day.

Just about every television station transmitted pre-recorded interviews, some of them taking him back to his favourite haunts near the old De Meer stadium and sitting him in his favourite cafés with his old cronies. Whenever my zapping brought him up on the screen, he seemed to be tucking into some good, solid Amsterdam grub while the others did all the reminiscing.

Everybody seemed het up except Johan himself. He shunned all the mega-plans for mega-parties at the Carre theatre in Amsterdam and celebrated with family and friends in a hotel tucked away in L'Emporda, a secluded part of the Costa Brava.

"In Amsterdam," he explained in his usual blunt fashion, "I would have had to share my birthday with loads of people I hardly know – or don't know at all. The people I wanted to share my birthday with were the ones I brought to Spain."

His son Jordi came over from Manchester and listened to paternal advice about his future at Old Trafford – or elsewhere. Piet Keizer was there and some of the other old cronies from his Ajax days.

Diego Maradona had his nose put out of joint when Johan failed to appear at his players' union's All-Star match two days later. "Cruyff's got a cold," he was told. Cruyff's got a cold beer might have been more accurate. He was having a jar or two with his friends on the terrace at Perelada Castle. On the previous day he had made it to the Olympic Stadium, to watch his son-in-law – and former Barcelona goalkeeper – Mariano Angoy make his home debut as a kicker for the Barcelona Dragons gridiron team.

Since his abrupt dismissal two matches before the end of last season, the man has changed. His tan has been acquired on the golf course, out on the piste or on holiday in the Maldives.

Two days before the big five-oh he was in Turin to fulfil part of his contract with the Dutch TV channel NOS, for whom he does commentary on Champions League matches. Chatting to all and sundry on the athletics track half-an-hour before kick-off was a man who has lost the worry lines around his eyes and who seems totally at peace. He realises that life without the tensions of the dug-out can be eminently agreeable.

Hence the deaf ears turned to offer after offer from Italy, Spain, France, the UK, Germany, Holland and several other countries just this side of the Himalayas. Even Real Madrid. He has enjoyed his year on the dole so much that he has decided to have another one.

"I am in absolutely no hurry to get back into battle," he says. "After 34 years in football, it's marvellous to be able to, for example, take a holiday in January. I'm enjoying the chance to relax and forget things. You think that when you're not in the front line, your popularity will go down. But I've been able to see that exactly the opposite happens.

"You're no longer judged as a person by the team's most recent result and people's memories seem to prune out all the bad bits and concentrate on the positive side. I'm aware that getting back into coaching will immediately bring those negative reactions back into my life. I'll think about it in a year's time, but I'm in no hurry."

***'You think that when you're not in the front line, your popularity will go down. But I've been able to see that exactly the opposite happens'***

**This is the month's ESM XI, based on votes from journalists at *A Bola* (Portugal), *don balon* (Spain), *Foot* (Belgium), *Kicker* (Germany), *La Gazzetta dello Sport* (Italy), *onze mondial* (France), *Sport* (Switzerland), *Voetbal International* (Holland) and *World Soccer*.**

**Champagne on ice... Karlsruhe's Thomas Hengen (right) struggles with Jens-Uwe Zophel, of triumphant Energie**

# Energie's the right word

A CROWD of 21,000 packed the Friendship Stadium in Cottbus to see the local club knock out Karlsruhe and reach the German Cup Final.

Millions more watched on TV as the appropriately-named FC Energie, top of the regional Third Division in north-east Germany, and undefeated in 55 League and Cup games, took on another giant.

Poor Karlsruhe, recent UEFA Cup participants, went to the electricity-generating town of Cottbus fearing the worst. Wolfsburg, Duisburg and St Pauli all had bitten the dust – or rather the mud – at Energie's riverside pitch, snow was falling and the capacity crowd, in place hours before kick-off, could envisage only one winner.

The cash raised from the Cup had enabled the club to get floodlights and KSC slithered to an ignominious 3-0 defeat in a scene from Grimm's Fairy Tales. Ede Geyer, former Dynamo Dresden, Sachsen Leipzig and East German coach, now has to plot the downfall of Hanover 96 in the two-leg playoff to qualify for the Bundesliga Second Division.

Whatever the result, nothing can take away the pride of the thousands of Cottbus fans who will go to Berlin for the Cup Final against Stuttgart on June 14.

***Bob Vaughan***

## Badge Business

**Ajax went modern in 1991, adding Amsterdam to their name in a re-designed emblem.**
**Ajax, founded in 1900, is the name of a marshall who fought in the Trojan War in the 12th century BC. The 11 lines making up the figure represent the players of a side.**

## CHAMPIONS FROM NOTTS!

MANY congratulations to Robin and James Carver from Nottingham who have won the World Soccer's Champions League Cup final competition held in conjunction with Reebok.

The Carvers will travel to Munich for a two-day VIP stay in Bavaria.

We received more than a 1,000 entries and World Soccer would like to congratulate the Carvers.

For the record, the answers to the three questions are: The five British winners of the European Cup are Celtic, Manchester United, Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Aston Villa; the only player to score at least one goal in all of the first nine Champions Cup tournaments was Francisco Gento (Real Madrid); the player who scored in a World and Champions Cup Final on the same ground but was on the losing side, by the same score in both matches, was Zoltan Czibor.

Keeping mum in the picture...Maurizio Ganz

# Mother of all quandaries

MAURIZIO GANZ had a big problem. He may have scored two of Inter's three goals in their first leg triumph over Monaco in the UEFA Cup semi-final but, while appreciating the plaudits handed him afterwards, he told reporters that the television highlights of the game were being shown so late that his mother would miss seeing his performance.

The TV station showing the highlights was moved so much by his story that it brought the programme forward to allow Mrs Ganz to see it. How many thousands of people subsequently missed the recording is anyone's guess.

## Noise from Brazil

BRAZILIAN domestic football is confusing enough without this. Vasco da Gama's fans greeted their injury-time winner against Volta Redonda by crying "cheats" and "fix" at the referee and their own players.

Little-known Volta had led from the fifth minute but had two players mysteriously sent off early in the second half. Still they managed to hold on until Vasco equalised four minutes into injury time. Volta players surrounded the ref, who promptly said he'd add on two more minutes after play resumed. Vasco then scored again to win the game. But not the admiration of their fans.

## Celtic swing

CELTIC manager Tommy Burns was prepared to quit after his side were beaten by First Division Falkirk in the Scottish Cup. But a half-hour chat with a lifelong Celtic supporter on the steps of Parkhead made him change his mind.

"I came in in the morning and met a Celtic supporter I've known since my days as a boy in the Gallowgate, and we had a half-hour chat," said Burns. "I noticed the utter dejection on his face and we chatted about a few things. It was then I found a new inspiration."

## Jurgen teaser

IN WHICH country will Jurgen Klinsmann be playing next? Bemused listeners to the provincial station Bavarian Radio were asked the question by the fading star himself, with the prize for the correct answer being a holiday for two in the place in question. Bootle is nice at this time of year.

Where next?...Jurgen Klinsmann

Gone to pot...Bernard Lama

## Lama season goes up in smoke

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN'S France international goalkeeper Bernard Lama awaits his fate after a second urine sample tested positive for cannabis.

Lama, who played for his club in the semi-final of the Cup-winners' Cup after the initial test, can expect at least a two-month ban. PSG have signed 32-year-old Franck Mantaux from Second Division Saint-Brieuc as cover.

## Bald-eagle eyes

DERBY COUNTY came within minutes of fielding too many non-EU players in a Premiership match – before being saved from a possible points deduction by a sharp-eyed fan.

Manager Jim Smith had named four non-European Union players – one more than the permitted maximum – in his side to face Nottingham Forest at the Baseball Ground. A supporter spotted the error and alerted the Derby bench just before kick-off. The old bald-eagle Smith replaced Estonian goalkeeper Mart Poom with locally-born substitute Russell Hoult and the match ended in a 0-0 draw.

"If it hadn't been spotted we would have faced some sort of punishment, possibly the docking of a league point," said Smith.

## Steaua rumpus

ROMANIAN police detained 27 Steaua fans after rioting in Bucharest following their team's 6-2 home victory over Jiul Petrosani. The incidents happened when the fans made their way to Bucharest's main stadium where Steaua's arch-rivals Dinamo lost 2-1 to First Division leaders FC National.

Police said the Steaua fans had hurled stones at passing cars and attacked city buses, injuring several drivers and passengers.




# Win

a ticket and you're guaranteed a place at the World Cup qualifiers.

**Here's the score.**

Buy any Braun Shearer, sorry, shaver and you'll get the chance to see Shearer in action by winning tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying matches. And if you're from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, and Shearer doesn't blow your whistle, then you can, of course, win tickets to see your nation play instead.

All entries must be received by 8 July 1997. Proof of purchase required. See in-store leaflet for further details. Customer Service Line: 01932 792233.

# Hodgson's

The time: early evening. The place: Internazionale's training camp at Appiano Gentile, 40km north of Milan. One by one, the players head back to the changing rooms after a light training session in preparation for the UEFA Cup semi-final first leg against Monaco, the following day. Only Youri Djorkaeff stays out on the pitch, practising a free-kick routine as the sun sets over the Italian Alps.

It's a picturesque setting, but one Roy Hodgson will turn his back on this summer when he swaps Lake Como for Lancashire. Hodgson, one of English football's most successful coaching exports, is the man Blackburn Rovers owner Jack Walker hopes can restore stability, and ultimately success, to a club which has struggled since winning the Premier League title two years ago.

Rejecting one of the world's most famous football clubs, in favour of an outfit which has spent most of this season too close to the Premier League's relegation zone for comfort, is not most people's idea of progress. But Hodgson is looking forward to the task. He may not admit it, but one senses he will be glad to see the back of Italy and, in particular, the Italian press.

His differences with Inter president Massimo Moratti have been subtle, not insurmountable. Moratti has at times hinted the team could be performing better, but has never criticised his coach in public.

Not that Hodgson has been a failure in Serie A. The Croydon-born coach steered Inter away from the relegation zone and into the UEFA Cup in his first season. This term, Inter, with several notable new faces, have reached the UEFA Cup Final and performed steadily if unspectacularly in the League. Hodgson will leave the club in better shape than he found them.

The walls of Hodgson's office at Appiano Gentile display mementos of a long and successful career in Sweden and Switzerland. Despite a long day, he is relaxed and ready to talk.

***We're tallking the day after Juventus thrashed Milan 6-1 at San Siro, an amazing result. Can anyone catch Juve in the League now?***

No. They were excellent last night. I thought they won the League when they drew 0-0 with us here in Milan. That was the only possibility of a turning-point. They had about seven points on us and five on Parma. The only chance was that we might have won that game and closed the gap to four points, then they might have slipped up and suddenly it would have been a race again. But when they didn't lose to us and with Parma losing that weekend as well, the gap stayed at seven points. I can't see them losing now.

***What's the target for Inter for the remainder of this season?***

We've got two. We had three until we were knocked out of the Italian Cup. Now we've just got the two: to finish second in the championship and to win the UEFA Cup. We're close, but we're still a long way away.

***How does that compare to your aims at the start of the season?***

I think we've done well. At the start of the season any serious club – ourselves, Milan, Parma, Juve of course, Roma, Lazio – has got to say their aim is to win the championship. To be third in the League, to be in the

# n's choice

**Internazionale coach Roy Hodgson is turning his back on Italy to take charge of Blackburn Rovers this summer. He spoke exclusively to Gavin Hamilton**

semi-finals of the UEFA Cup is a satisfactory achievement, thus far. But what happens between now and the end of the season decides everything. I remember a season when Leeds United were likely to win everything. They were in the FA Cup Final, they were in the European Cup Final, they were top of the League – and they ended up winning nothing. Having a good season is only good if you produce the final pass. We've got ourselves in a position to deliver the ball but we've still got to make the final pass.

***You made a lot of changes at the start of the season. How have they worked out?***
It's not been bad. It's a short period of time. Last year, we had one group of players. We let 16 of them go and brought nine in. Of those nine, two haven't started including Kanu, who had a heart problem. So you're talking 16 out, seven in. We started with a squad of 20, then we sold Carbone to Sheffield Wednesday and Seno to Bologna. A couple of weeks later, we sold Festa to Middlesbrough. Suddenly, we're looking at 17 players, one of who is a junior. That's 16 senior professionals, plus three goalkeepers. So considering everything that's gone on, I think we've done well.

***Has it been difficult integrating so many foreign players into the squad?***
When players come to a big club like Inter, even from other clubs in Italy, they need time to adapt. When you come from abroad, you need a little bit more. We were lucky in the sense that Zamorano, Winter and Angloma had come from big clubs, left their native countries and played elsewehere. Djorkaeff came from France, but he'd been through a gambit of big French clubs. And of course, Winter and Angloma had already played in Italy. Zamorano started in Switzerland, where he learned Italian. So we didn't take people who were raw, which eased the adaptation process. But of course, with so many foreigners you run the risk of falling foul of people in the press who are chauvinistic, who say Inter should be fielding only Italians.

***Has pressure from the press been a problem?***
I don't know. All I'm saying is that you run the risk of falling foul [of the press]. Xenopohobia is one of the most common diseases. It's like favouritism. No-one will ever admit to xenophobia, just like no-one will admit to having favourites. But we all know people do have favourites and many people are xenophobic. So it wouldn't surprise me if our cause hasn't been helped. Inter may be a big club, with great success in the past, but unlike other clubs, we don't own any of the press.

***Has that sense of history weighed heavily on you? Have you felt the pressure to deliver success?***
Well, there's no point in taking a job at a club like Inter, Milan or Juventus if it takes five years for you to win something. You are supposed to win from your very first day. When you go to any of those clubs, it's a question of surviving: surviving the months, surviving the weeks, surviving the next few days. They've got such enormous resources. Milan could afford to bring Tabarez in at enormous expense, and then he was out within two-and-a-half months. Of course you're under pressure to deliver. After every match, even if you're top of the League, you're under pressure.

***When your appointment at Blackburn was announced, you were quoted as saying you were sure Blackburn wanted you, but that you could not be sure that Inter felt the same way. Is that still a fair reflection of how you feel?***
Yes. I remember saying that and I still hold to it. Inter say they wanted me. They said they wanted me when Blackburn first made enquiries. They even wanted me to sign an extension to my contract. We even agreed. But in the subsequent months, I still wasn't feeling 100 per cent confident the president of the club wanted to go down the same road I would choose to go down. Every coach has got his philosophy, his own way of working. I like to work in a certain way. I'm not here just to work in Italian football and earn some money, I could do that in other countries. I'm at a stage in my career when I like to work after my convictions, after my philosophy. So in that two months between turning the offer from Blackburn down, signing a new contract here with Inter, and Blackburn coming back to me, a lot of water passed under the bridge. With Blackburn I got the impression that here was a club who had come back a second time for me and were really making it clear they wanted me to work with them. Inter were saying all the right things, but I didn't feel it. So it was a gut feeling.

> **'Blackburn were really making it clear they wanted me...Inter were saying all the right things, but I didn't feel it'**

***Was it always in the back of your mind that you would go back to England eventually?***
No. It was a question of one good job offer versus another. It will be an advantage working in England because of the language, but nothing more.

***Do you feel more European or more English?***
European, I suppose, because I haven't had much experience of English football in recent years. Don't forget I left England 22 years ago. I had that brief spell at Bristol City, when Bobby Houghton and I arrived at the club in the September, and by October they were talking about winding the club up. Then, we survived a year of winding-up procedures, deadlines and people watching the clock for the baliffs to call. That can't be counted as a serious experience of English football. That was 15 years ago, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. Furthermore, if you look at my 22-year career, apart from that brief 18-month hiatus at Bristol City, the other 20 or so years have been spent in Europe.

***You'll be bringing a lot of European know-how to Blackburn, but is there a danger that the players will be used to different coaching methods?***
If I can come to Inter, a club that is notoriously difficult to coach, and survive two years here and a turnover of 16 players and nine new bodies, then Blackburn will hold no terrors for me. I hope 22 years of experience will hold me in good stead. That's obviously what Jack Walker wants, or he would not have come to get me. But I don't want to to make any claims that I'm European, that I will do this and I will do that. I just want to get on with the job.

***There's a feeling about Blackburn that Kenny Dalglish let them down after they won the title. They grew very quickly, but didn't have anyone to guide them in Europe. Is that where you come in?***
Yes, we talked about that. I don't want to talk about Kenny, I don't agree with that. Blackburn did make the point about achieving success very quickly. Following a period in the 1960s, they had a long spell when they languished outside the top regions. And now they've got back and won the championship. My job is going to be to make sure that the club is stabilised at the top of the Premier League. We're not necessarily going to be winning championships every year. Not even Manchester United and Liverpool can do that. But it's important that we don't have times when one year we win something and the next year we're involved in a relegation battle. But to be honest, we haven't talked about specifics. We haven't really had a long philsophical discussion about what direction the team should go in.

***Has Jack Walker said how much money will be available to spend on players?***
No. Jack told me that however much money it takes, in my opinion, to rebuild the team or to mould a team, he will try to make available. I don't think money is a factor as such, but you don't turn money away.

***What do you think about the influx of foreigners into the English game?***
Good. It's been an advantage. I can't see how it could not be an advantage. Most of them seem to be doing very well. But there are teams without foreign players that are also doing well. It's like here. Piacenza don't have a foreign player on their books, they don't have a player earning very much money, and every year they survive in Serie A. Whereas other teams are spending millions. Enrico Chiesa at Parma cost £20-25million, including wages, which is more than the entire Piacenza budget for five or six years. But they're still there.

***It must be nice to know there's going to be money to spend on players, though?***
Money is no guarantee of success. Money wisely spent on good players can produce success. How much money have Newcastle spent to win the title over the last three years? They're still not winning it are they? Look at the Manchester United team. Half the players didn't cost anything. So it's nice to know I'll be working for a club where there's money available. It's nice to know that if I see a player who I really think could benefit the club, I don't have to worry whether we can afford him. If I see a player and I say to Jack "I've found a player, he's going to cost £10million", I'm sure Jack will give me £10m. But first of all I've got to find the player. There's no point in saying "I've got £15m, I'm going to buy him, him and him" then four months later decide I don't like what I've bought.

***What about tactics. Is England lagging behind Italy tactically? No-one in Italy seems to use wing-backs any more.***
All the best teams here play 4-4-2 or 4-3-3 or 4-3-1-2 if like us they happen to be blessed or cursed, depending on how you see it, by the famous *mezzopunta*. Milan started the season with 4-3-1-2 but have now changed to 4-4-2, with Robby Baggio up front. Juventus play a classical 4-4-2, really classical, with two wide men going up and down and two central runners in midfield. Parma are exactly the same with four in a line, four strung across the middle and two up front. We, the third team, play a four, three, a one and two. The fourth team, Sampdoria, play with a back four.

***Will it stay that way?***
No. The Italians are trying to change it. The new era that has been swept in, which wants to deny Arrigo Sacchi, is talking about a return to *catenaccio*. At the moment, the national team is playing with a back five. All they've really done is add a defender and play 5-3-2. In the games I've seen, in Poland and England, Italy had three shots against England and four against Poland. But they've not conceced a goal. At Wembley, they've come away with one goal, so that's it, one-nil.

***Will things change in England?***
I don't think so. They don't need to. Liverpool play with three at the back and two wing-backs, and they interpret the system very well. I've not seen teams on the Continent interpret the three centre-back, wing-back role better than in England. The tactical system of the *mezzopunta*, where you have a player in the role of Zola at Chelsea, is an English tactic. The first team I ever saw do that was in the 1970s when Eric Gates played behind Paul Mariner at Ipswich. Almost before Baggio was born, Gates was doing that. So it's a typical English attitude to say we're not as good tactically. The Premier League is the same as most leagues. The league that differs from all others is the German League. If you took two teams from England, Italy, Spain and France, didn't know what countries they were from, couldn't hear the language and played the game in Venezuela, you wouldn't know who the English were, who the French were, who the Italians were and who the Spanish were. You might know if you had a German team as they play a distinct style. They still play man to man with a libero.

***Will you be looking to bring a more continental approach to training and how Blackburn prepare for games?***
I've found here that we control things like diet all the time the players are in our control. But no more…

***…but there are bottles of wine on the tables downstairs in the dining room. You wouldn't get that at an English club.***

**Coat of arms…England and Inter midfield dynamo Paul Ince receives some hands-on advice**

No. It's a bit of myth about Italian players drinking a glass of wine with their meals, though. Italian players smoke more than the English. They also eat more biscuits, they're great biscuit-eaters. That's one of the things that amazed me when I came to Italy. When I was in Switzerland and Sweden, you wouldn't get players eating biscuits. So at Blackburn, I hope I'll be able to advise the players on diet, but you mustn't exaggerate its importance. As for the training methods, they will be the same that I've used over the years at Malmo, at Neuchatel, and with the Swiss national side.

***What are those methods?***
They're very simple. There are only three aspects to work on: the technical, tactical and the physical sides. The physical side is for the most part taken care of by a physical trainer who comes up with proposals for what we should do and when. On the tactical side, you can only work on attacking and defending. And you can only work on technique when you have the players passing the ball for half an hour, and they've done all that before. So even the technical side is limited. There is no magical formula. Newspapers like to simplify things. When a coach wins five games in a row, he's got something magical. Now I don't want to destroy too much of that myth. It's a nice myth.

***You could be talking yourself out of a job!***
Well the way I see it, I consider myself to be in the same position as a lawyer. I've studied to be a professional. I like to think I know my profession and that I'm good at my profession. Just as if I was to go to a lawyer, I'd go to someone who was good and who knew his job, even if I had to pay him a little bit more. I wouldn't go to someone who was just starting off as a lawyer. I'd want someone who can tell me what I can do and what I can't do and if I want to succeed, what I have to do. That's the way I try to approach things.

***There's a generation of coaches in Italy – yourself, Arrigo Sacchi, Sven Goran Eriksson – who didn't play professional football at a very high level. Does that make a difference to the way you look at the game? Have you had to think harder about the game?***

No. That's a nice romantic view of things. I don't think having been a great player helps you over a long period. It helps you over a short period, because the immediate response is there from players. If Giacinto Facchetti [now the club delegate at Inter] was to come in and coach an Italian side, he'd get a good response for two or three months, but after that the players would want to know, "What are you doing to help us?"

***Franz Beckenbauer has said he found it very frustrating coaching players who were not as talented as he was***
Yes, but there are many great players who have gone on to be great coaches. Fabio Capello was a great player. Cruyff was one of the greatest players at Barcelona. Bryan Robson, who has done very well, was a great player. So it really depends on the individual. Maybe Robson, Cruyff and Capello were the type of player who were geared to becoming coaches. Maybe Beckenbauer and Bobby Charlton weren't. It might not be much more complicated than that. Everyone likes to put these super labels on people.

***So coaching is very simple…***
Basically, football coaching is about three things. It's about the knowledge of football, which let's say, everybody has, either through playing or like Sacchi, Eriksson or myself through studying. Secondly, it's the ability to communicate the knowledge that you have to help other people benefit. Thirdly, it's leadership, leading a group of men. It's choosing the right moment to give them a ticking-off or a pat on the back. Choosing the right training session for the right occasion. It's knowing when to push your centre-forward further forward. The really good coach will score highly in all three areas. We might go out tomorrow and play very well, and at the end of the game people might say we were fantastic. But in actual fact, I might know our preparation for the game wasn't very good, but we still win. I've got to look beyond that. You might go into a game satisfied with your preparation and really confident, and then not have a good game. But you've got to keep your knowledge at that level. If you say, "We did badly, everything's got to start from zero" or "We've reached the point where I can go off and play golf," you're missing the point.

***There's a big debate in England at the moment about the introduction of video replays to help referees take difficult decisions. Is that the wrong road to go down?***
Yes. It would be a cul-de-sac if we did go down that road. I don't think it would improve things. I keep seeing offside situations where people are showing me videos to show it was or wasn't offside. You couldn't stop the game for every offside. Everything happens so quickly.

***The game has become quicker, hasn't it? Referees can't keep up...***
I think there's a case for professional referees. They need to be top-class athletes. They need to be very good endurance runners, capable of covering the whole pitch. The problem is, you're talking about two different people, one with that level of fitness and another, an older one, with the body of knowledge. So you're looking for special people. You might even get the situation where you have two referees, each refereeing a half. That's possible, I suppose. But the standard of refeering seems, if anything, to have improved. The big problem for referees is knowing whether players have been fouled or whether they've fallen over. I don't mean simulation, that can often be seen. I mean where players are going for the ball. I was quite interested to watch the League Cup Final on television here, where the referee, Bodenham, let a lot of things go. Players were going in at speed in situations where they were confronted by a defender and a covering defender. Obviously, if the covering defender makes a tackle, there's contact and the player goes down. Now the referee let all those go. But that wasn't bad because players don't deserve to be penalised. The two defenders are there to try and block and if the ball is knocked past them, there's going to be a collision. Over here it's always, always, a foul. If a player goes down between two defenders, he gets a free-kick. The same with heading. I've lost count of the number of times I've seen players who are honestly trying to head the ball and get fouls given against them. The guy who is just trying to get out of the way always wins the foul. How many times a year do we get the situation when a good goal is disallowed? It might be once in a blue moon. But there are four or five of these type of situations in every game. So in a season, I'm talking about 250 incidents against one and yet people are anxious to improve the one. Why don't they improve the 250? That's going to do a lot more good.

***'If you took teams from England, Italy, Spain and France, didn't know where they were from and couldn't hear them shouting, you wouldn't know which was which'***

***We saw a lot of scoreless draws at Euro 96. Is that becoming more inevitable in international football?***
Yes, because of the press. The press have made losing a crime. Let's work on the basis that we, I'm talking about players and coaches, want to win and none of us want to lose. But unfortunately you, the press, label us criminals. So what do we do? We make sure we don't lose. And how do we do that? By playing safe. If I'm a suspected robber and I know the police are looking for me, I don't go creeping around at midnight with a sack on my back. I've got less chance of being picked up if I stay indoors and take it nice and easy.

***How are things going to change?***
I've been having these debates for 22 years. If you want more freedom, if you want more liberty, if you want more spectacle, get off the players' backs.

***But it's difficult to stop the press being so nationalistic...***
If you make them afraid to play, they won't play their best. Take away their fear of failure, then they'll do well. The best point I ever heard about that was from Van Basten. People said how come you've learned so many tricks and moves. He said he wouldn't have learned them if he'd been born in Italy. He would have been too frightened to make a mistake. But when he was with Ajax, winning the Dutch First Division every year, he could afford to make his mistakes trying out new moves. Fear is a factor. We're nervous people, we're nervous about the game. You've got teams who now set out not to lose. They'll put nine players behind the ball and not go over the halfway line. You can play with a cavalier team full of great players, but I know you won't score six goals against them. You can organise a pub team to not let in six goals against Manchester United. Give me six months and I'd organise them, if they had a half-decent goalkeeper and a couple of centre-halves who can get in the way of the ball. But things won't change until someone says: "We lost 3-2 today, but it was a fantastic display. Thanks very much for partcipating in this wonderful game. Well done coach, here's another five-year contract."

***Do you look at what Kevin Keegan did at Newcastle with admiration then?***
Well, he bought a lot of players...

***But they played attacking football that was attractive to watch...***
They were winning tactics. He took them from almost the Third Division to the top of the First Division. You've got to set your stall out. The only team I used to admire was West Ham. Ron Greenwood was at West Ham for an enormous amount of time, and John Lyall followed him, but the only thing I remember them doing in 15 years was winning the FA Cup. Yet they produced four players who played in the English national side. There was a club who played good football. When I was a kid, I used to travel all the way across London to Upton Park to watch them. But these days if you don't win silverware, they don't want to know. Never mind the new stadium. Never mind the fact that no-one has spent more money than Newcastle.

***One of the problems Newcastle have is their flotation on the stock exchange. If they don't win some silverware, the share price will go down. Does that aspect of football bother you?***
Yes, but it's inevitable and to a certain extent understandable. What I don't like is the dishonesty, because people on the one hand are winning silverware and on the other hand talking about the spectacle and flowing football and this, that and the other. Yet, if we want to win, we'll get more cynicism. Much more cynicism.

***There can only be one winner of the League...***
Exactly. There will be big casualties. We're seeing it already. The sporting side gets less and less priority. That's the way it's going. There's a lot of money going out of the game. People who don't really care whether they work or not are getting into positions of power. They quite happily accept the sack and take the money and live very comfortably thank you very much indeed. If I work on the basis that I can sneak two jobs and get the sack twice, I can have eight or nine years work and not need to work again. It's like *The Ballad of Peckham Rye*. Muriel Spark should write a new book about it.

***What do you think about the new format of the Champions League? It gives teams like Inter a chance to take part, but it takes something away from the competition, doesn't it?***
It seems to be a way of guaranteeing no slip-ups like in 1989, when Inter went out in the first round to Malmo, who had a budget a tenth of Matthaus's salary. That's now stopped, because once you're in the Champions League, you're guaranteed six matches. It's just a way of ensuring the rich get richer and the poor have no chance of catching up. Inter, Juventus and Manchester United don't want to go out in the first round. They've spent a lot to get there. It's not sporting, it's not fair.

***If Inter are in next season's Champions League, will you look back and wonder what might have been?***
No. I know what might have been. I know this club now, I know what it is and what it will be. It won't be with me.

***Has there been a high point in your career?***
There have been lots. Winning the championship in my first season in Sweden, taking Switzerland to the World Cup. And being appointed here, without the help of an agent. I think that's probably been the high point, working for 22 years without an agent. Perhaps I should get myself one!

At face value...Roy Hodgson

## LIFE AND TIMES OF HODGSON

- Aug 9, 1947, Born in Croydon, south London
- Fails to make the grade at Crystal Palace before playing in South Africa.
- 1976-80, Coaches Swedish side Halmstads, leading them to their only two League triumphs in 1976 and 1979.
- 1981-82, Becomes assistant to Bob Houghton at Bristol City.
- Returns to Sweden with Orebro.
- Joins Malmo, guiding them to a League and Cup double in 1986 and the championship in 1988.
- Takes over at Swiss side Neuchatel Xamax, steering them to runners-up spot in the League in 1991.
- January 1, 1992, begins new job as Switzerland national coach, guiding them to their first major finals in 28 years, the 1994 World Cup, and a first ever appearance at the European Championships, in England last year.
- October, 1995, Appointed coach of Italian side Internazionale, but continues to hold advisory role with Switzerland in run-up to Euro 96.
- May, 1997, Leads out Inter against Schalke of Germany in UEFA Cup Final.

# Vive la di

# difference!

## Frenchman Zinedine Zidane will give Juventus the edge over Dortmund in Munich, says Keir Radnedge

THE LAST time the Olympiastadion hosted the Champions Cup Final, the result was a French celebration. The outcome should be the same this time, even though no French club will be present and Munich will be a home from home for outgoing German champions Borussia Dortmund.

The Frenchmen celebrating in 1993 were the players of Marseille who had just secured their country's first victory in the competition. The Frenchmen celebrating four years later should be Juventus duo Didier Deschamps and Zinedine Zidane.

Deschamps links the two finals, having captained Marseille in 1993. Theirs was a triumph tarnished by scandal. Within a fortnight, it emerged they had fixed their pre-final League match against Valenciennes so as to clear the decks to concentrate on the European target. Later, Milan's former Marseille skipper Jean-Pierre Papin was reported as suggesting some of his Italian team-mates had been bought, an allegation he subsequently denied. It has not gone unnoticed the match was refereed by the now-disgraced Swiss official Kurt Rothlisberger.

***'Zidane was different class, even in such a remarkable team. No team has ever beaten us so completely' – Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal***

So, the first and most important demand for this year's final is a good, clean fight, with no contentious incidents. The best result, for football's sake after a season of smears, would be victory for Juventus.

I say that, with all due deference to Dortmund's achievement in reaching the final. But they have been matched with Juventus three times in European competition in the past and lost the overall argument every time: 3-1 and 3-0 in the 1993 UEFA Cup Final, 2-2 and 2-1 in the 1995 UEFA Cup semi-finals and 3-1 and 2-1 in the 1996 Champions League.

There is no reason why this meeting should be any different, even though Dortmund boast five men with unrivalled insight into Juventus methodology in old boys Andy Moller, Julio Cesar (fit to offer advice though unfit to play), Stefan Reuter, Jurgen Kohler and Paulo Sousa. Juventus have made substantial changes since winning on penalties against Ajax in Rome, last season. Sousa (controversially carrying a knee injury) was sold to Dortmund while Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli decamped to England's Chelsea and Middlesbrough.

Coach Marcello Lippi has tried to avoid comparing last year's side with this one. But the victory over Ajax in the semi-finals surely spoke for itself. Last year, Vialli, Ravanelli and Co needed a penalty shoot-out in front of a friendly crowd. This time, despite a string of injured absentees, the 'Old Lady' cruised smoothly to a 2-1 victory in Amsterdam and a 4-1 triumph in Turin.

The difference between last year's champions-by-a-whisker and this year's team of the season – now also world club champions – may be put down to one man: Zinedine Zidane. The 24-year-old midfielder who joined last summer from Bordeaux has totally eclipsed Eric Cantona in his fellow Frenchmen's affections. The two men's achievements speak for themselves: Manchester United's Frenchman could take his club 'only' as far as the semi-finals; Zidane lifted his team into the final.

In the return against Ajax, Zidane's inventive talents meant Juventus made light of the absences through injury of the likes of forwards Alessandro Del Piero and Michele Padovano, and suspended Yugoslav midfielder Vladimir Jugovic. The 'new Platini' created two of the goals and scored a superb solo effort which drew superlatives even from Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal. He said: "Zidane was different class, even in such a remarkable team as this Juventus. No team has ever beaten us so completely."

Zidane's success has had the remarkable effect of turning Del Piero, at 22, into yesterday's boy. One wonders whether Del Piero, sadly fragile this season, is still hungover from last season when he was leaned on by Italy at full, Under-21 and military level, and played his part in all Juve's competitive commitments.

Munich offers Del Piero the stage to reclaim the spotlight, though Zidane will start top of the bill.

Remarkably, Zidane was tempted to turn Juve down last year. He says: "I nearly said no. I thought about staying at Bordeaux. I was happy. I enjoyed my football in France. The thought of playing in Italy was a little scary, a big challenge. But then, I wanted to win the big prizes and I couldn't have done that staying in France. It seemed I had hardly arrived here and we won the World Club Cup. Then, another couple of months and we won the European Supercup. Now we want the Italian League and the Champions League."

Fans who recall the pallid contribution from 'Zizou' to France's Euro 96 campaign, may have been surprised at his explosion with Juventus. But fatigue, induced by Bordeaux's InterToto Cup campaign in the summer of 1995, had caught up with him by last June. Juve's faith never wavered. They had already deposited the first instalment of a £3million transfer fee.

That faith should be rewarded against Dortmund. Even the Germans' coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, accepts that Juventus will be favourites. Not that German teams have ever had any problems defying underdog status.

The mainstream also goes with Juventus.

Johan Cruyff, playing the TV analyst during the semi-finals, said: "Juventus will win. I admire what they have achieved. They have not been carried away by this fixation with foreign players."

Ajax defender Frank de Boer, said: "I have no doubt Juventus will win in Munich. I can't remember when we last let in four goals in a European match. Juventus are like a team from another planet."

How appropriate if Juve could mark their centenary by becoming – simultaneously – Italian, European and world club champions. Even Platini's Juventus, in the mid-1980s, could not attain such heights.

# Flying high

## Paddy Agnew on Juve's attacking finds of the season

THIS is the story of 'Nik Dinamite' and 'Bobbo', otherwise known as Nicola Amoruso and Christian Vieri, Juventus strikers and two of the biggest and most positive surprises in this seemingly all-conquering Juventus season.

Italian soccer folklore maintains that no club in the land is as adept as Juventus when it comes to off-loading and replacing star players who, only the day before, had been winning trophies for the Turin club.

In the past, World Cup winners such as Paolo Rossi and Marco Tardelli were sent on their way when apparently still in their prime, only for both to fail miserably in their subsequent careers, hardly kicking a ball in anger again.

Even Juventus fans, however, must have wondered if the club had not seriously overdone it last summer when, a few weeks after winning the Champions Cup, two such charismatic figures as Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianluca Vialli were despatched on the rocky roads to Middlesbrough and Chelsea respectively.

True, Juventus already had Alessandro Del Piero in their ranks, and last summer they had bought the Croat Alen Boksic – never a prolific scorer but regarded as one of the best attacking talents in Serie A. They also had the experienced Michele Padovano on their books.

By the beginning of this season, president Roberto Bettega and coach Marcello Lippi probably felt they had more than enough cover up front. Given the presence of Del Piero, Boksic and Padovano, they could afford to plan for the future and draft in two relatively untried youngsters, 22-year-old Amoruso and Vieri, 23.

Nobody at Juventus could have planned for a 1997 springtime when, just as the Serie A and Champions League campaigns were getting white hot, none of the experienced first-choice trio would be available because of injury. Nor could they have predicted that the two youngsters would step in and do such a good job that nobody missed Del Piero, Boksic et al.

By the beginning of May, Amoruso had not only scored the 100th home goal for Juventus in Champions Cup ties (against Norwegians Rosenborg) but both he and Vieri went on to score in both legs of the Champions League semi-final rout of Ajax (2-1, 4-1).

By then, the unheralded pair had scored seven League goals, while Vieri's contribution to the Juventus season had been underlined by his senior international debut for Italy in a 3-0 World Cup win against Moldova in Trieste, where he marked the occasion by scoring Italy's 1000th goal in international soccer.

"These things happen – Juventus bought us for the future, hoping that in the meantime we might help win the odd match," says Vieri. "The fact that this season has turned out so positively means that both we and Juventus deserve a round of applause."

Vieri is the son of a famous footballing father, Bob, whose soccer peregrinations took him from Sampdoria via Juventus, Roma and Bologna to Australia, where Christian grew up (he still speaks excellent English complete with an Australian accent).

He was a professional with Italian Third Division side Prato at the age of 16, and has been around a bit, learning the trade with Torino (seven Serie A games), then with Second Division sides Pisa, Ravenna and Venezia, before returning to Serie A last season with Atalanta, where he scored seven goals in 19 outings.

Amoruso's career has so far encompassed Sampdoria, Second Division Fidels Andria, Padova (in Serie A) and now Juventus. He signalled himself as a buy for the future when scoring 14 Serie A goals in 33 matches for relegation-bound Padova last season.

Since being brought together by Juventus, Vieri and Amoruso have become good friends. That will do no harm to a future partnership which seems likely to revolve around the classic attacking module of the crafty, skilled opportunist (Amoruso) feeding off the battering-ram striker (Vieri).

Both have so far proved experienced beyond their years. When called on to lead the attack in the intimidating context of a Champions League semi-final against Ajax in Amsterdam, they knocked the ball around as if they were on Rimini's sands in one of the most impressive performances of a very impressive Juventus springtime.

Vieri, called on by national coach Cesare Maldini to step in after injuries to strikers Pierluigi Casiraghi and Fabrizio Ravanelli, rose to the occasion in World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and, more significantly, in the 0-0 draw away to Poland five days later.

As Juventus enter the final furlong of their Serie A championship battle and await the Champions Cup Final against Borussia Dortmund in Munich, they know that whatever happens they already have a sound basis for the future in Vieri and Amoruso.

Opportunist...Nicola Amoruso

Battering ram...Christian Vieri

**COACH**
Marcello LIPPI (11.4.48)

**GOALKEEPERS**
1 Angelo PERUZZI (16.2.70)
12 Michelangelo RAMPULLA (10.8.62)
17 Davide FALCONI (19.5.75)

**DEFENDERS**
2 Ciro FERRARA (11.2.67)
3 Moreno TORRICELLI (23.1.70)
4 Paolo MONTERO (Uru) (2.9.71)
5 Sergio PORRINI (8.11.68)
13 Mark JULIANO (12.8.73)
22 Gianluca PESSOTTO (11.8.70)

**MIDFIELDERS**
7 Angelo DI LIVIO (26.7.66)
8 Antonio CONTE (31.7.69)
14 Didier DESCHAMPS (Fra) (15.10.68)
18 Vladimir JUGOVIC (Yug) (30.8.69)
19 Attilio LOMBARDO (6.1.66)
20 Alessio TACCHINARDI (23.7.75)
21 Zinedine ZIDANE (Fra) (23.6.72)

**FORWARDS**
9 Alen BOKSIC (Cro) (21.1.70)
10 Alessandro DEL PIERO (9.11.74)
11 Michele PADOVANO (28.8.66)
15 Christian VIERI (12.7.73)
16 Nicola AMORUSO (29.8.74)
28 Ivano TROTTA (12.10.77)

**THE ROAD TO MUNICH**

**GROUP C**

| | |
|---|---|
| Manchester Utd (h) | 1-0 |
| Fenerbahce (a) | 1-0 |
| Rapid Vienna (a) | 1-1 |
| Rapid Vienna (h) | 5-0 |
| Manchester Utd (a) | 1-0 |
| Fenerbahce (h) | 2-0 |

**QUARTER-FINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rosenborg (a) | 1-1 |
| Rosenborg (h) | 2-0 |

*Juventus win 3-1 on agg*

**SEMI-FINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ajax Amsterdam (a) | 2-1 |
| Ajax Amsterdam (h) | 4-1 |

*Juventus win 6-2 on agg*

# Spot on

## David Walker finds 'Braveheart' Moller ready to respond to the Munich challenge

ANDY MOLLER'S presence at the heart of Borussia Dortmund's attempt to dethrone his old club, Juventus, may provoke mixed emotions among German fans watching the Champions League Final.

The 29-year-old Moller, taunted occasionally even by his own team-mates for his delicate temperament, is known in the Dortmund camp as Braveheart – a mickey-taking reference to his non-combative approach to playing in midfield. He prefers to add the skilful gloss to Dortmund's performances rather than chisel out victories.

Opponents consider he has taken over from Jurgen Klinsmann as the most spectacular acrobat in German football. How soon do they forget the crucial penalty success which sank England at Wembley in the European Championship semi-final at Wembley last June.

The other side of Moller was evident in the 1-1 Bundesliga draw which virtually condemned Dortmund's title defence to failure. Reflecting on a string of incidents in which Moller figured, Bayern general manager Uli Honess said: "It's no fun watching this actor out on the pitch. He's always crying. As soon as he's fouled he screams. Yet he then gets up and insists on taking the free-kick himself. He's just acting. It's no fun any more watching Moller. In fact, it's terrible. And it's not just Moller. Earlier this season we had to 'persuade' Stephane Chapuisat that diving wouldn't pay."

Bayern midfielder Mario Basler – a sometime team-mate in the national squad – has no love for Moller.

A bad foul by Moller left Basler limping heavily after the clubs' first clash last autumn. In the recent return, the game was barely 15 seconds old when Moller threw the ball at Basler and the Bayern midfielder signalled Moller to step aside for a punch-up. Moller, wisely, backed off.

A little later he found Bayern veteran Lothar Matthaus taunting him. Matthaus stroked his eyes and pretended to make tears run down his cheeks in a 'cry baby' insult which provoked Moller into leaping forward – followed almost instantly by team-mates desperate to keep the two apart.

Even Dortmund skipper Matthias Sammer, the European Footballer of the Year, has not been immune to the Moller factor. In one match earlier this term Sammer had been trying to 'gee up' Moller with a stream of verbal commands. When Moller scored a goal he told Sammer to shut up – and Sammer administered a kick to his team-mate's backside.

**Opportunist...Nicola Amoruso**

Hoeness says: "Dortmund have it all worked out. All this bickering with the referee and opposing players is just done to influence the officials and to try to get their fans really behind their team."

There is, of course, another side to Moller. He is a footballer blessed with the priceless gift of scoring goals from midfield and has a turbo-charged turn of pace to evade his markers.

As England keeper David Seaman will testify, Moller is brilliant in a shoot-out. By scoring the decider as Germany beat England in last summer's European Championship semi-final, Moller came the closest he has ever been to becoming a national hero back home.

Germany will expect more heroics in Munich. If Moller delivers on the European stage once more, then his critics will forgive him anything. Well, almost...

### COACH
Ottmar HITZFELD (12.1.49)

### Goalkeepers
1 Stefan KLOS (16.8.71
12 Wolfgang DE BEER (2.1.64)

### DEFENDERS
3 Rene SCHNEIDER (1.2.73)
5 JULIO CESAR Silva (8.3.63) (Bra)
6 Matthias SAMMER (5.9.67)
15 Jurgen KOHLER (6.10.65)
16 Martin KREE (27.1.65)
25 Steinar PEDERSEN (6.6.75) (Nor)
20 Wolgang FEIERSINGER (30.1.65) (Aut)

### MIDFIELDERS
2 Knut REINHARDT (27.4.68)
4 Stefen FREUND (19.1.70)
7 Stefan REUTER (16.10.66)
8 Michael ZORC (25.8.62)
10 Andreas MOLLER (2.9.67)
14 Paul LAMBERT (7.8.69) (Sco)
17 Jorg HEINRICH (6.12.69)
19 PAULO Carvalho de SOUSA (30.8.70) (Por)
21 Carsten WOLTERS (25.8.62)
23 Rene TRETSCHOK (23.12.68)
24 Vladimir BUT (24.9.77) (Rus)
29 Frank RIETHMANN (9.12.75)

### FORWARDS
9 Stephane CHAPUISAT (28.6.69) (Swi)
11 Heiko HERRLICH (3.12.71)
13 Kalrheinz RIEDLE (16.9.65)
18 Lars RICKEN (10.7.76)
22 Jovan KIROVSKI (18.3.76) (US)
28 Ibrahim TANKO (25.7.77) (Gha)

### THE ROAD TO MUNICH

**Group B**

| | |
|---|---|
| Widzew Lodz (h) | 2-1 |
| Steaua Bucharest (a) | 3-0 |
| Atletico Madrid (a) | 1-0 |
| Atletico Madrid (h) | 1-2 |
| Widzew Lodz (a) | 2-2 |
| Steaua Bucharest (h) | 5-3 |

**Quarter-finals**

| | |
|---|---|
| Auxerre (h) | 3-1 |
| Auxerre (a) | 0-1 |

*4-1 to Dortmund on agg*

**Semi-finals**

| | |
|---|---|
| Manchester Utd (h) | 1-0 |
| Manchester Utd (a) | 0-1 |

*2-0 to Dortmund on agg*

### SEMI-FINALS
**1st legs - April 9**

Ajax 1 (Jari Litmanen 66)
Juventus 2 (Nicola Amoruso 14, Christian Vieri 41)
HT: 0-2. Att: 51,000. Ref: Lopez Nieto (Sp)
Ajax: Van der Saar - Melchiot, Blind, F de Boer, Babangida, R de Boer, Scholten (Wooter 77), Richard Witschge (Dani 71), Overmars, Litmanen, Musampa (Bogarde 27).
Juventus: Peruzzi - Pessotto, Ferrara, Montero, Porrini, Di Livio (Tacchinardi 69), Deschamps, Jugovic (Lombardo 85), Zidane, Vieri, Amoruso.

● Juventus maintained their hold over Ajax after striking twice, decisively, in the first half – Vladimir Jugovic creating the first for Nicola Amoruso and Christian Vieri scoring the second shortly before half-time. Ajax, badly missing injured Patrick Kluivert in attack, forced their way back into the tie in the second half. They pulled back one goal in the 66th minute when Jari Litmanen converted a pass from Ronald de Boer.

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Rene Tretschok 76)
Manchester United 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 48,500. Ref: Levnikov (Rus)
Dortmund: Klos, Reuter, Moller, Herrlich (Zorc 90), Lambert, Kree, Heinrich, Ricken (Freund 90), Sousa, Feiersinger, Tretschok (Reinhardt 85).
Man Utd: Van der Gouw - G Neville, Irwin, Johnsen, Pallister, Cantona, Butt, Beckham, Giggs (Scholes 83), Keane, Solskjaer (Cole 75).

● An opportunist second-half goal from Rene Tretschok edged Borussia Dortmund towards their first Champions Final. Tretschok, a late replacement for injury-hit Dortmund, shot from 25 yards and saw his effort deflect off defender Gary Pallister and beyond United goalkeeper Raimond Van der Gouw. The Dutchman was playing after Peter Schmeichel failed a fitness test just before the game. Dortmund exerted most of the pressure yet United created the three best chances. Once Eric Cantona shot hastily wide, once David Beckham had a shot cleared out of the goal area and once Nicky Butt hit a post.

**2nd legs - April 23**

Juventus 4 (Lombardo 34, Vieri 36, Amoruso 79, Zidane 81)
Ajax 1 (Melchiot 76) HT: 2-0. Att: 62,377. Ref: Milton Nielsen (Den)
*Juventus win 6-2 on agg*
Juventus: Peruzzi - Ferrara, Tacchinardi, Montero, Juliano, Deschamps, Lombardo, Di Livio, Zidane (Conte 85), Boksic, Vieri (Amoruso 69).
Ajax: Van der Sar - F de Boer, Blind, Melchiot, Richard Witschge (Juan 85), Bogarde, Scholten (Musampa 57), Litmanen, Overmars, Babangida, R de Boer.

● Champions Juventus demolished Ajax to reach their fifth Champions final. There was no doubting their superiority once Attilio Lombardo and Christian Vieri had scored twice in quick succession after Ajax had pressured Juventus in the first 20 minutes. France midfielder Zinedine Zidane made the first goal as well as the third for substitute Nicola Amoruso before scoring the fourth himself. A close-range header by Mario Melchiot provided Ajax's consolation goal. Defeat ended Ajax's three-year-old unbeaten away record in Europe.

Manchester United 0
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ricken 7)
HT: 0-1. Att: 53,606. Ref: Meier (Swz)
*Dortmund win 2-0 on agg*
Man Utd: Schmeichel - G Neville, May (Scholes 86), P Neville, Johnsen, Pallister, Cantona, Butt, Cole, Beckham, Solskjaer (Giggs 56).
Dortmund: Klos - Reuter (Tretschok 23), Kohler, Feiersinger, Kree, Ricken (Zorc 60), Lambert, Moller, Heinrich, Chapuisat, Riedle (Herrlich 72).

● An early away goal by midfielder Lars Ricken handed Dortmund the early command which proved crucial at Old Trafford. Dortmund thus became the first German side to reach the final since Bayern Munich 10 years ago. The Germans, marshalled superbly in defence by Jurgen Kohler and Wolfgang Feiersinger, resisted non-stop United attacks after taking the lead after a throw-in on the right. Andy Moller fed Ricken, who twisted away from Gary Pallister before shooting just inside goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's right-hand post. United had more than a dozen clear-cut scoring chances but Eric Cantona, Andy Cole and Pallister – with a close-range heading opportunity – all wasted excellent openings.

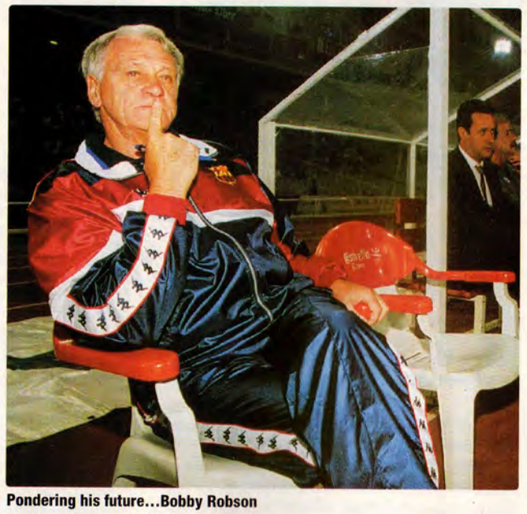
# Staying power

## Bobby Robson faces a difficult choice after the Cup-winners Cup Final in Rotterdam, says Graham Turner

WHILE Johan Cruyff was calmly doing TV commentary on the end of an Ajax era in the Stadio delle Alpi, about 400 kilometres south-east, in Florence, his successor at Barcelona, Bobby Robson, was fuming.

On the day before the Cup-winners Cup semi-final return leg against Fiorentina, Barcelona's president, Josep Lluis Nunez, had told reporters, "You have to bear in mind that last summer we suddenly found ourselves without a coach, without a team for the season and without a clear structure. All the top coaches were already tied up..."

Bobby Robson captured the not-so-subliminal message that he had been a last-resort signing. He responded by hatching such a coherent game plan against Fiorentina that the Italian side looked thoroughly outclassed from start to finish.



Pondering his future...Bobby Robson

At the post-match press conference, he told reporters: "My response to Nunez is to give him the opportunity to watch us in two Cup finals."

Fortunately, Robson's long spell as England manager at least served to thicken his skin. His answer was typically gentlemanly.

Three days later, Nunez made his first appearance on a TV chat show for 18 months. He confirmed the club was negotiating with Louis Van Gaal of Ajax and another coach (believed to be Betis manager, Lorenzo Serra Ferrer), and that a completely new coaching structure would be set up. "Van Gaal hasn't signed yet," he commented, "and if he comes here, he will have to accept that the head coach is Bobby Robson, who has another year to run on his contract."

The news agencies immediately ran "Robson To Stay" stories, which alarmed the likes of Everton and Celtic, who had already made overtures. But there's more to it than that.

For a start, is it really feasible to wheel in a top-class European-champion coach like Van Gaal, put him in a subordinate role and say Bobby's your uncle? Secondly, could Nunez do anything other than support Robson in public? He was hardly likely to announce his dismissal a fortnight before the vital League game against Real Madrid and 17 days before the Cup-winners Cup final in Rotterdam. Then there's the money. Any hint of a dismissal would allow Robson to claim a full year's salary in compensation.

The fact that nobody seems prepared to see things from the Robson angle is symptomatic of the lack of respect shown to him since his arrival at Nou Camp. The pro-Cruyff factions have systematically slated him and one reporter even went so far as to label him "the worst coach in the world". The same columnist later wrote "if Barcelona win something, it will be in spite of Robson". The former Ipswich, England, PSV, Sporting Lisbon and Porto boss has faced up to the slings and arrows and replied with results.

It hasn't been easy. Post-Bosman dressing-rooms are not being held up as examples of team spirit and the multi-national amalgam in Barcelona has required some handling. What's more, over half the squad has been at the centre of transfer talk, while key performers like Ronaldo and Pep Guardiola have spent recent months trying to get their contracts upgraded.

Certain players interpreted Robson's gentlemanly approach to the job as a sign of weakness and there came a moment when he simply had to whip off the velvet gloves. Sniping from the boardroom also reached a point where the manager had to dig in his heels and stand up for himself.

Robson took the job recognising that replacing Cruyff at the big, big Catalan club would be the great challenge of his career. Even he has been surprised at the pressures it entails. While it has been an enriching experience, it is not necessarily one he would like to prolong, especially if it meant working in tandem with another top coach, or maybe even two.

He will make no announcement until after Rotterdam, but his future will be decided before the Copa del Rey final against Betis on June 28. The critics seem to think that Robson's future depends purely on Nunez's end-of-season verdict. But, if Barcelona end the season with some silverware, the alternative script is for Bobby to say *adios* as a winner. Whatever Nunez might tell the media, it's Robson's choice.

**SEMI-FINALS**

**1st legs - April 10**

**Barcelona 1** (Nadal 42)
**Fiorentina 1** (Batistuta 62)
HT: 1-0. Att: 110,000
**Barcelona:** Vitor Baia – Ferrer, Popescu, Luis Figo, Stoichkov (Pizzi 75), Ronaldo, Giovanni, Amor, Nadal, Roger Garcia, Fernando Couto.
**Fiorentina:** Toldo – Falcone, Serena, Cois, Amoruso, Padalino, Pusceddu, Robbiati, Batistuta, Rui Costa, Oliveira.

**Paris Saint-Germain 3**
(Leonardo 10, Cauet 42, Leroy 83)
**Liverpool 0**
HT: 2-0. Att: 35,142. Ref: Krug (Ger)
**PSG:** Lama – Ngotty, Le Guen, Leonardo, Guerin, Rai, Loko (Pouget 83), Fournier, Cauet, Leroy (Allou 87), Domi (Algerino 41).
**Liverpool:** James – Matteo, Bjornebye, Wright, McAteer, Harkness, McManaman, Collymore (Thomas 46), Fowler, Barnes, Redknapp.

**2nd legs - April 24**

**Fiorentina 0**
**Barcelona 2** (Fernando Couto 30, Guardiola 35)
HT: 0-2. Att: 48,000. Ref: Frisk (Swe)
*Barcelona win 3-1 on agg*
**Fiorentina:** Toldo – Carnasciale, Serena (Pusceddu 84), Amoruso, Padalino, Schwarz, Cois (Bigica 89), Rui Costa, Oliveira*, Baiano (Firicano 89), Robbiati.
**Oliveira sent off, 48min.*
**Barcelona:** Vitor Baia – Ferrer, Sergi, Nadal*, Fernando Couto, Luis Enrique (Amor 80), Ivan De la Pena, Guardiola, Luis Figo (Stoichkov 85), Giovanni (Abelardo 84), Ronaldo.
**Nadal sent off, 83min.*

**Liverpool 2** (Fowler 12, Wright 79)
**Paris Saint-Germain 0**
HT: 1-0. Att: 38,984. Ref: Pedersen (Nor)
*Paris S-G win 3-2 on agg*
**Liverpool:** James – McAteer, Wright, McManaman, Collymore, Fowler, Redknapp, Ruddock, Berger (Kennedy 69), Thomas, Bjornebye.
**PSG:** Lama – Ngotty, Le Guen, Leonardo (Kenedy 83), Guerin, Rai, Loko (Pouget 57), Fournier, Cauet, Algerino, Leroy.

Forward march...PSG's Patrice Loko

All lit up...Schalke fans celebrate at the Park Stadion

# Miner masters

## Schalke are aiming to make history, says Arthur Rotmil

NOT Bayern Munich, not Borussia Dortmund, but unfashionable Schalke 04 are the most popular club in Germany, and have been for decades.

Despite some shameful episodes, including the worst bribery scandal in Germany soccer history, in 1971, Schalke still have as many fans as Bayern.

They are based in Gelsenkirchen, in the heart of the coalfields of the industrial Ruhr, hence their nickname *Die Knappen* (The Miners).

They established their reputation for good football and success between 1934 and 1942 (during the war!), when they won six national championships. A further title followed in 1958, to go with Cup wins in 1937 and 1972, and they were one of the 16 Bundesliga founder members in 1963.

They have been relegated three times, and only just avoided bankruptcy five years ago. Various offences and outbreaks of hooliganism have led to their unofficial title of "the scandal club" – but they somehow retain their popularity.

Now Schalke are taking part in their first international tournament since 1977, the UEFA Cup, and have reached their first final, against Internazionale. And they are confident of victory, even though regular strikers Max Martin and Dutchman Youri Mulder are out with long-term leg injuries.

Rudi Assauer, the club's general manager, says: "We're not afraid of Inter, but we would have a better chance if Max and Youri were fit."

Schalke have reached the final without conceding a goal in their own Park Stadion, where they have played Valencia, Trabzonspor, Club Brugge and Tenerife.

The key player is 31-year-old libero Olaf Thon, who began his career with Schalke before joining Bayern Munich. He rejoined The Miners in 1994, and admits: "A European final was the last thing on my mind at that time. But now I'm looking forward to it very much.

"People often give us credit for being great battlers, with lots of team spirit. But there's more to our team than that. We have some great individual players." These include the Belgian Marc Wilmots, formerly of Standard Liege, Dutchman Johan de Kock, and Czechs Jiri Nemec and Radek Latal, who both did well during Euro 96.

Thon, a member of Germany's 1990 World Cup winners – in Italy – created both the goals that beat Tenerife, and now wants a Euro medal to match the one won by manager Assauer, a member of the Borussia Dortmund team who beat Liverpool in the Cup-winners Cup Final back in 1966.

Assauer's appointment in an administrative capacity helped to turn the club around. He reorganised operations, improved the financial side by getting rid of debts, and was instrumental in the appointment of 43-year-old Huub Stevens as coach last October, after a poor start to the season had cost Jorg Berger his job.

Stevens, a Dutchman who gained 18 caps as a player, is renowned as a strict disciplinarian. He knows the club cannot compete in the transfer market with the bigger names, but the wage structure now in place seems to keep the squad happy.

And a capacity 70,000 crowd at the home leg of the final will be willing them on as they try to make a piece of history by winning a first European trophy.

**SEMI-FINALS**

**1st legs - April 8**

**Internazionale 3** (Ganz 17, 30, Zamorano 40)
**Monaco 1** (Ikpeba 71)
HT: 3-0. Att: 41,000. Ref: Piraux (Bel)
**Inter:** Pagliuca – Bergomi, Paganin, Fresi, Pistone, Ince, Sforza (Winter 78), Zanetti, Djorkaeff, Ganz, Zamorano.
**Monaco:** Barthez – Blondeau, Grimandi*, Irles (Martin 46), Petit, Legwinski, Djetou, Benarbia (Ikpeba 69), Collins (Scifo 46), Anderson, Henry.
**Grimandi sent off, 46min.*

**Tenerife 1** (Felipe 5pen)
**Schalke 0**
HT: 1-0. Att: 23,000
**Tenerife:** Ojeda** – Llorente, Mata, Jokanovic, Chano, Felipe, Juanele (Neuville 85), Sergio, Vivar Dorado*, Pinilla (Andersson 75), Cesar (Alexis 80).
**Vivar Dorado sent off, 55min;*
***Ojeda sent off, 75min.*
**Schalke:** Lehmann – Linke, Latal (Wagner 80), Eigenrauch, Muller (Dooley 80), Anderbrugge, Thon, Bueskens, Nemec, Wilmots, de Kock.

**2nd legs - April 22**

**Monaco 1** (Ikpeba 70)
**Internazionale 0**
HT: 0-0. Att: 18,500
*Inter win 3-2 on agg*
**Monaco:** Barthez – Blondeau, Dumas, Djetou, Martin (Grassi 87), Petit, Legwinski, Collins (Henry 62), Scifo, Ikpeba, Anderson.
**Inter:** Pagliuca – Angloma, Paganin, Fresi, Bergomi, Zanetti, Ince, Sforza, Winter (Branca 72), Djorkaeff, Ganz (Galante 88).

**Schalke 2** (Linke 68, Wilmots 107)
**Tenerife 0**
HT: 0-0. 90min: 1-0. Att: 56,824
*Schalke win 2-1 on agg after extra time*
**Schalke:** Lehmann – Thon, de Kock, Linke, Eigenrauch, Nemec, Muller, Anderbrugge, Bueskens, Latal (Held 110), Wilmots.
**Tenerife:** Andersson – Alexis, Paz (Dani 59), Sergio, Mata, Chano, Motaung, Felipe, Jokanovic, Kodro (Neuville 72), Pinilla (Aurelio Vidmar 98).

Heading for the final...Schalke's Thomas Linke

# The next generation

*The South American championships kick off in Bolivia on June 11.* World Soccer *assesses the continent's brightest young pretenders*

## JUNINHO

NO PLAYER in the English Premiership has courted as much publicity as Brazilian international Juninho in the past three months.

Since his arrival at Middlesbrough in October 1995, the diminutive attacker has been criticised for moving to a club that had failed to achieve anything in 120 years, when he could have moved to any of Europe's top clubs. However, Juninho, who cost Boro £4.75million from Sao Paulo, has already played his part in leading Boro to their first major final, in the Coca-Cola Cup, and on May 17 he will make his second Wembley appearance of the season in the FA Cup Final against Chelsea.

While certain members of Boro's foreign contingent, notably Ravanelli and Emerson, have been heavily criticised for the club's relegation predicament, nobody has been pointing the finger at Juninho. As honest a player as you could find on the pitch, the 24-year-old is just the same away from the maddening crowd.

"I said when I joined Middlesbrough that I had come to England to be successful and to win things," says Juninho. "It was disappointing to lose the Coca-Cola Cup Final, but we will have another chance to win a trophy at Wembley this month."

As for his club's poor form in the league, Juninho admits things have not gone to plan, saying: "We had a few problems earlier in the season with injuries and suspensions and this caused us to drop down the league, but we have played a lot better since January. When we have our strongest team out we know we are a match for anyone."

Commenting on his own performances, Juninho says: "I think my recent form has been as good as it was when I was playing back home in Brazil. Obviously it takes a little time to adjust when you move to a new country, but it has been very important for me that I have had my family around to support me."

That is an indicator to where Juninho's future lies. "I would like to stay in England for the remainder of my contract with Middlesbrough. The supporters have been brilliant to me, better than any I've ever known."

Brazilian goal...Juninho is desperate to remain in Zagallo's team in the build-up to the World Cup

US enterprise...Jaime Moreno at Washington DC

However, he adds a word of caution: "It is also vital for me to be playing in the Brazil side, especially as the World Cup in France is taking place next summer. There are many good players in Brazil waiting to step into the national side and that is why I and Middlesbrough must continue to play well. Therefore the coach Mario Zagallo will see just how well I am playing."

What better way to start for the number 10 who has already scored for his country at Wembley than by turning on the style on the famous old ground.

Juninho says: "It would be brilliant to produce a great display at Wembley against Chelsea in what I'm sure will be a much better match than the Coca-Cola Final.

"If Zico, Pele and Zagallo could be there at Wembley it would be even better."

***John Holmesdale***

## JAIME MORENO

THANKS almost entirely to the efforts of Tahuichi, the remarkable youth club in Santa Cruz, Bolivian players now have some international credibility. Erwin Sanchez in Portugal, Juan Manuel Pena in Spain and Marco Etcheverry in the USA are all graduates of Tahuichi.

So too is striker Jaime Moreno, the newest of the Tahuichi stars, who last season joined Etcheverry at Washington DC United.

Moreno started his professional career at age 17, joining the Santa Cruz club Blooming in 1991. In two years there he scored 35 goals, before leaving for a short spell with Santa Fe in Colombia. At 20 he was a member of Bolivia's World Cup squad in the USA in 1994, playing against Germany and Spain.

Next came a surprising move when Moreno was signed by Middlesbrough. In his two years on Teesside, Moreno featured sporadically and when the likes of Juninho and Ravanelli arrived, his days were clearly numbered.

In June 1996, playing for Bolivia against the USA in Washington DC, Moreno scored a spectacular goal in the second minute, racing 65 yards with US defenders in forlorn pursuit, before crashing his shot past goalkeeper Brad Friedel.

Watching closely was DC United coach Bruce Arena. When Moreno became available the following month, Arena snapped him up. Moreno moved to Washington with his English wife, Louise, and quickly made his presence felt with goals in his first two games.

He became a key player in DC United's progress to the championship, with an outstanding performance in the final. He is quick, with a powerful shot, but Moreno's goals tend to have a touch of artistry about them. He is a deceptive dribbler, a master of the subtle change of pace and direction. Add his quickness and ability to find the slightest defensive gap, and you have the leading striker in Major League Soccer.

His current contract will keep him at DC United until the end of this season. "I have to think about my career," he says in perfect English, "I am still young. But I am very happy where I am."

But if, say, Barcelona came calling? "Oh well, Barcelona ...we'll see," says Moreno with a shrug and a smile.

***Paul Gardner***

## ARIEL ORTEGA

AT THE tender age of just 23, Ariel Ortega, a creative, attacking midfielder with outstanding ball control, technique and an eye for goals, is arguably Argentina's best player since Diego Maradona.

He made his debut for River Plate at 18 and by the end of 1995-96 had played 119 games and scored 22 goals, although he is more of a creator and does not, like Maradona, take penalties.

As a regular with River Plate, Ortega shared in their 1993, 1994 and 1996 title wins and last year's Libertadores Cup triumph. The club have missed him since selling him at an Argentinian record fee of £7million to Spain's Valencia in March.

Last year both Rangers and Arsenal had shown interest in Ortega, who was a substitute at the 1994 World Cup and came into the team when Maradona was suspended for the last two matches. Then he played in the 1995 Pan-American Games, the Copa America that year and the Olympic Games last year.

He already has 34 full caps and during the current World Cup qualifying competition he has been the only ever-present in Argentina's nine games. Also, he has been an immediate success for Valencia and should be one of the stars in Bolivia this summer.

***Eric Weil***

Ariel power...Ortega is Argentina's rising star

## CARLOS GAMARRA

THE headlines in Paraguay tend to be claimed by flamboyant goalkeeper Chilavert, yet he has a formidable defensive unit in front of him, marshalled by Carlos Gamarra.

Paraguay top the South American qualification group and Gamarra is the star man in a back three who have conceded only six goals in 10 games.

The combative Riverola and Ayala do the marking. Gamarra says: "Generally I play as the sweeper but if the opposition have a fast winger I'll move out to the other side to give cover. If you play with three centre-backs you need this type of flexibility."

Gamarra, 26, is too young to remember Passarella the player but there is something of the Argentinian about him. He is strong and hard if necessary but also a technically gifted player whose shy off-field manner belies a fierce will to win.

Like Passarella, Gamarra loves charging forward to join the attack. "I prefer playing as sweeper," he says, "because it gives you such a good vision of the game, and it means I have the chance to bring the ball out of defence." In another team you might call him the first line of attack, but with Paraguay that is one honour that never could be taken away from Chilavert.

Gamarra's performances have not gone unnoticed, and after two years in Brazil with Internacional it seems that he will soon be on the move. There has been interest from Spain and England but he says: "It's almost sealed that I'm going to Benfica. To play for a club of that size would be a great move for me."

It's a long way from his poor upbringing in a small town on the outskirts of Asuncion, where harsh economic realities seemed to rule out a career in the game. "I was playing amateur football and it was never in my head to play professionally," says Gamarra. "But I was invited to try my luck with the juniors at Cerro Porteno [one of Paraguay's leading clubs] and I took it from there." He made rapid progress after turning pro. in 1990. Taking part in the Barcelona Olympics gave him a taste for the big occasion and strengthened his desire to get to the World Cup. Now he has 36 caps, obtained in only four years.

Sound defence...Paraguay's Carlos Gamarra

After narrowly missing USA 94, Gamarra is desperate to keep the focus on France. "The Copa America is important for us," he says, "because we face Argentina in World Cup qualification just a few days later and it's a chance to get the group together."

He remembers Paraguay's last World Cup campaign, in 1986, which ended with a 3-0 defeat by England. "I watched the game at my grandad's house. No, I wasn't too upset. It was expected, we knew that England were the stronger team. But if we meet next year I think it may well be a different story."

***Tim Vickery***

# The next generation

Cool head...Marcelo Goncalves

## MARCELO GONCALVES

TWO YEARS AGO, Brazil coach Mario Zagallo would have been hard pushed to remember Marcelo Goncalves, let alone call him into his squad.

Five years in Mexico had made the centre-back a forgotten figure in his native land. Now Zagallo is happy to call on Goncalves, whose educated skills and cool head have made him perhaps the best home-based defender in Brazil.

"In 1995 I felt I had achieved all of my objectives in Mexico," says Goncalves. "So I thought the time was right to return to Brazil." He went back to Botafogo, quickly helped them to their first Brazilian championship, and at the age of 30 found himself making his debut in the national team.

He is hopeful of a World Cup slot. "It seems clear there are six of us fighting for four places – I'm in there with Aldair, Marcio Santos, Andre Cruz, Celio Silva and Cleber – and it will depend on who's in the best form at the right time. I know I don't have much time left, so I'm working hard to make sure I take my chance."

He won't miss out through lack of ability. He is a magnificent reader of the game and one of the most skilful defenders in Brazil. "I'm not a violent centre-back – my strength is my technical ability," he says. "I like to win the ball cleanly and bring it out of defence. I'm a mature player and I try to keep it simple."

Both on and off the field, Goncalves is a great believer in education. "My parents always made sure that I continued with my studies along with my career." He holds a degree in physical education, and after picking up tips from the likes of Zico and Junior at Flamengo, his time in Mexico was another stage in the learning process.

"Culturally I learned a lot there, and I grew up more quickly than if I had stayed in Brazil. I also matured as a player. There are a lot of foreigners in Mexico, both playing and coaching, so the football is competitive and you face different styles of play. My time in Mexico was important, and helped me on my return to Brazil, when I quickly won new titles and got into the Brazil team."

The next phase in his education could take place in England. A transfer to Nottingham Forest fell through recently, but a move is by no means out of the question. "If I keep my place in the national team I think new offers will come in. For me the best countries are Spain, England and Italy.

"My preference would be for a move to England. I studied the language in the past and would welcome the opportunity to speak it well. Also it would give me a chance to develop in a cultural sense."

By way of exchange, there's a whole book of things that he could teach English centre-backs.

*Tim Vickery*

## FAUSTINO ASPRILLA

HAVING played for Parma, for Colombia in the World Cup in 1994, and now Newcastle United, 27-year-old Faustino Asprilla needs little introduction. Argentina's two big clubs, River Plate and Boca Juniors, are both keen to get to know him even better.

Until he was 18 Tino played for the town selection of his native Tulua and then for Colombian clubs Cucuta and Nacional until leaving for Italy.

In addition to the World Cup, he played in the 1992 Olympic Games and two Copa America tournaments (1993 and 1995) and can be called a veteran international. With few newcomers looking likely to stand out for the national side, Colombia will again be relying heavily on Asprilla's goals.

Asprilla is a well-known rebel and joker who has been involved with police in Italy and his home country. When he 'escaped' from the hotel during the 1993 World Cup qualifying series, the then Colombian FA president, Juan Bellini, banned him for life from the national squad, but had to relent in face of protests from Asprilla's team-mates, who said they would not get anywhere without his goals.

He is currently top scorer with six in the South American World Cup qualifying group.

*Eric Weil*

Jokerman...Faustino Asprilla

Dangerous...Marcelo Salas

## MARCELO SALAS

AT THE age of 20, striker Marcelo Salas was one of the youngest players in the Chile squad for the 1995 Copa America. He did not score any of Chile's three goals as they finished bottom of their group, but that same year he finished top scorer in the Chilean First Division with champions Universidad de Chile.

Last year, Salas was Chile's top scorer (with four goals) in the South American Olympic qualifying tournament. He caught the eye of River Plate officials and Universidad reluctantly transferred him to the Argentinian side for some £1.9million. He had to take his turn in the first team due to River Plate's strong squad but soon became popular for his fearless and dangerous attacking – and his goals.

Earlier in 1996, Salas was top scorer for Universidad in the Libertadores Cup. They reached the semi-finals and were knocked out by the eventual winners, River Plate, with Salas scoring the equaliser in the first leg.

He then suffered an injury in a summer game which required an operation and this kept him out of action for River Plate in the national closing championship and for Chile in World Cup qualifiers – he had played in five of the first six, scoring two goals – but he is now back in training and should be fully fit for the Copa America.

*Eric Weil*



# NEXT MONTH

## Copa America

Group by group, team by team, player by player... the complete guide to the 1997 South American Championships in Bolivia

## Spotlight on Klinsmann and Raul

Where next for Jurgen? How much next for Real's peseta-laden wonderkid?

## PLUS

The full story from Munich on the 1997 Champions League Final

Club focus on Olympiakos

We preview the World Under 20 Youth Cup in Malaysia

**Also**
Keir Radnedge, Brian Glanville and World Soccer's unique international news and results service

**JULY ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 13**

# Kurt replies

## Referee's corruption case muddies the Euro waters, reports Keir Radnedge

THE EUROPEAN CUP corruption case centred on Swiss official Kurt Rothlisberger, has provoked more questions than it answered.

Rothlisberger, a former World Cup referee, has been suspended worldwide for life by FIFA on the recommendation of the European federation, UEFA. He was found guilty of offering to fix the Champions League match between Grasshopper of Switzerland and French club Auxerre, last October.

Swiss club manager Erich Vogel accused him of offering to "arrange matters" with match referee Vadim Zhuk, who has been suspended pending further investigations. During UEFA's inquiries, it was suggested Rothlisberger had a similar conversation last May with Bayern Munich's general manager Uli Hoeness, before the second leg of their UEFA Cup Final victory over Bordeaux. Zhuk was also the referee for that tie.

Both Hoeness and Zhuk, from Belarus, have denied any such conversations with Rothlisberger.

Zhuk, speaking from his home in Minsk, said: "The only contact I had with Rothlisberger was writing a letter to him last October, to ask if he could obtain some medicines for me which I cannot get at home. I asked him to phone me or meet me in Zurich, but he didn't do either."

This will not be the end of the matter. Rothlisberger says: "UEFA is making me a scapegoat. I have been totally honest and answered every question UEFA put to me correctly. But I did not expect private conversations would be revealed to the media or to other organisations [such as FIFA and the Swiss FA]. In the circumstances, I must consider whether I should now reveal other matters which would not be in the interests of the parties concerned, or of the game itself."

No wonder UEFA president Lennart Johansson has warned: "This could be just the tip of the iceberg."

A string of top-level international matches stretching back four years will now be under suspicion.

Earliest in the present hit-list, is the 1993 Champions Cup Final, in which Marseille defeated Milan 1-0 in Munich's Olympic stadium. Rothlisberger was the referee and though his handling attracted no particular comment at the time, the match has been swathed in controversy.

First, there was the Marseille factor. This was when the French club, under now-disgraced president Bernard Tapie, were at the height of their corruptive powers. Three players from Valenciennes had been paid to fix a League match against Marseille the previous week. That secured the title for Marseille and meant they were free to concentrate on the Champions Cup showdown.

Marseille won 1-0 with a perfectly valid goal from Basile Boli. But, two years later, new suspicions about the final itself were aroused by Jean-Pierre Papin – the former Marseille skipper who had played against them in Munich for Milan. Papin, by now having moved on to Bayern, met three Italian reporters in a hotel lobby while on a pre-season tour. During their conversation, according to all three, Papin clearly suggested up to three of his Milan team-mates had been bribed.

Papin's remarks caused mayhem. UEFA demanded he provide proof, or retract under pain of a long suspension for bringing the game into disrepute. Papin duly retracted and apologised. He claimed his remarks had been made in jest and/or taken out of context.

**Vicious circle...FIFA has blown time on Kurt Rothlisberger's refereeing career over corruption allegations**

It says everything about the cloud of suspicion hanging over the European club competitions (after the Anderlecht and Porto cases) that many observers think Papin should be recalled to the witness stand and asked to tell UEFA's anti-corruption team just what he knows.

After all, he played at Marseille for long enough before transferring to Milan. He would have been under no illusions about what was going on.

Hindsight is a remarkable tool. In the autumn of 1993, Rothlisberger was caught up in a storm. Manchester United were eliminated from the Champions Cup after a goalless draw with Galatasaray, in Istanbul. At the final whistle, United's Eric Cantona lost his temper, confronted Rothlisberger and insinuated he was one of a group of referees "who can be bought".

***'Eric Cantona confronted the Swiss referee and suggested he could be bought after Manchester United's goalless draw at Galatasaray'***

Rothlisberger showed the red card to Cantona, who was duly suspended. The incident did Rothlisberger's career no harm. Indeed, he was promoted to World Cup duty in the United States, the following year. This time, controversy caught up with him. He was sent home after ignoring an apparently obvious penalty offence against striker Josip Weber, during Belgium's 3-2 defeat by Germany, in Chicago.

The fix stories date back to December of that same year, 1994. Rothlisberger claims he was asked by chief reporter Jurg Von Matt and sports editor Rainer Meier of the newspaper *Blick*, if he could "arrange" with Romanian referee Ion Craciunescu the result of the European Championship tie between Switzerland and Turkey (the Swiss won 2-1). Rothlisberger claimed the *Blick* journalists were acting with the connivance of Rainer Huber, the promotions director of Credit Suisse, the bank which was the Swiss national team's main sponsor.

Von Matt, Meier and Credit Suisse all denied complicity. Craciunescu professed himself baffled, pointed out assessor Ken Ridden had marked him with a good eight and threatened to sue. Meier blamed media rivals for trying to stir up trouble for him in a circulation war. Von Matt, who now works as an agent, said he had nothing to hide and "can sleep soundly at night".

The Turkey-Switzerland game was raised by Rothlisberger in his evidence to UEFA about the alleged involvement of Blick and Credit Suisse, ahead of the World Cup qualifier in which Switzerland were surprisingly beaten 1-0 at home by Norway, last November.

Blick claimed Rothlisberger told Meier, four days beforehand, he could arrange the match for £40,000 with Spanish referee Manuel Diaz Vega. Rothlisberger has denied this and claimed the newspaper approached him.

Meier says he taped what should have been a damning conversation with Rothlisberger, but that for some reason, the tape on playback proved inaudible. Meier says: "I am a journalist, not James Bond."

The sum total of the evidence – proven, admitted, circumstantial and denied – led UEFA to ban Rothlisberger for life. In refereeing terms, this was a technicality, because Rothlisberger retired from active service last year anyway, having reached the age of 46.

UEFA passed its findings to FIFA, which extended the suspension worldwide.

Whether this will go unchallenged is uncertain. Rothlisberger's lawyer, Peter Treyer, claims the procedure of UEFA's disciplinary inquiry would not stand up to legal scrutiny. He says UEFA's hastily-produced statement of admission – which Rothlisberger signed, it must be said – would be inadmissible in law. For one thing, though Rothlisberger is a French teacher, his first language is Swiss-German and the statement was written out in French.

UEFA further complicated its own case by appointing Alain Courtois to lead the inquiry. Courtois, former general secretary of the Belgian federation and now director of Euro 2000, is vice-president of UEFA's control and discipline commission. He is also remembered, however, for stinging criticism of Rothlisberger's handling of the Belgium v Germany World Cup tie in 1994.

Just as Lennart Johansson should have withdrawn from FIFA's disciplinary consideration of the Estonia v Scotland case, so Courtois should have declined the Rothlisberger case.

FIFA will not be investigating the Switzerland v Norway game. "We can't set up an inquiry every time the media reports suspicions of corruption," according to spokesman Andres Herren. "If we did, we'd have no time for anything else. There is only one inquiry in this case. It concerns Grasshopper v Auxerre, and UEFA is handling it."

Rothlisberger is a colourful character with an eye for publicity. His ideas, however, sometimes backfire. In 1994, he was suspended for one European Cup round because he publicly criticised pay rates which fell below "even the most minor club official". In November 1995, he was suspended for three months after wearing his FIFA referee's kit for a promotional picture in a Swiss election campaign. Nor does the city of Aarau view with any pleasure Rothlisberger's latest controversy.

He is a teacher and an environment inspector for the city...but maybe neither for much longer.

Sports corruption – match-fixing – is not a criminal offence in Switzerland, so the matter, legally, can go no further down that road. Rothlisberger could sue UEFA and, because UEFA, by its own pronouncement, has kicked him out of the game, it could not hide behind the catch-all statute barring court action.

Whether Rothlisberger, for all his denials and swingeing accusations, will want the entire affair brought into the judicial open, is another matter.

### KURT ROTHLISBERGER

**Born** May 21, 1951
**Profession:** French teacher, environmental inspector
**Career** 1993 Champions Cup Final, World Cup finals in 1990 and 1994, Olympic Games finals in 1988.

### VADIM ZHUK

**Born** May 20, 1952 (Mir, Belarus)
**Profession** Lawyer, general secretary of the Belarus football federation
**Hobbies** Gardening, music
**First international appointment**
Sep 2, 1987: Yugoslavia 5 Finland 0 in Banjaluka during the Olympic Games qualifying tournament.
**Other top matches**
Nov 30, 1991: US 2 Norway 1 (Women's World Cup Final in Guangzhou, China)
Aug 16, 1992: Russia 2 Mexico 0 (Russia's formal first international as an independent nation, in Moscow)
Dec 13, 1995: Holland 2 Rep Ireland 0 (European Championship qualifying play-off at Anfield, Liverpool)
May 15, 1996: Bordeaux 1 Bayern Munich 3 (UEFA Cup Final 2nd leg)
June 15, 1996: France 1 Spain 1 (Euro 96 tie, Elland Road, Leeds)
Oct 30, 1996: Grasshopper 3 Auxerre 1 (UEFA Champions League)

### CASE HISTORIES

**1971** A German federation inquiry reveals around £350,000 was spent fixing up to 18 matches. Heavy fines are inflicted on 51 players and officials, and Kickers Offenbach and Arminia Bielefeld are relegated as punishment for their involvement.
**1984** Anderlecht are accused of having covered up a match-fixing offer to Spanish referee Emilio Guruceta Muro before their UEFA Cup semi-final second leg victory over Nottingham Forest.
FC Porto are accused of having commissioned an official of another Portuguese club to try to influence the referee of their Cup-winners Cup semi-final against Aberdeen.
**1986-93** Bernard Tapie, president of Marseille, is alleged to have spent an estimated minimum of £3.5million fixing matches domestically and internationally. Tapie is ultimately jailed while 20 former officials and associates face trial later this year.
**1987** Kaiserslautern coach Hannes Bongartz is said to have offered Hamburg keeper Uli Stein £10,000 to "arrange" a vital German League game. The matter is revealed in 1995, when it is beyond legal recourse.
**1993** In England, match-fixing allegations are levelled against Bruce Grobbelaar (Liverpool), Hans Segers (Wimbledon) and John Fashanu (Aston Villa, ex-Wimbledon). All deny the charges; the jury fails to reach a verdict and a retrial is set for later this year.
**1996** Kiev Dynamo are kicked out of the Champions League and suspended for three further seasons (later rescinded) for trying to bribe Spanish referee Antonio Lopez Nieto before a Champions League tie against Greek club Panathinaikos.

# Breaking through

***Palmeiras are Brazil's best footballing side – now they are poised to win the trophies to prove it, says Brian Homewood***

IN TERMS of winning trophies, Gremio have been without question Brazil's most successful club side over the past two years. Unfortunately, watching them is only slightly more fun than trying to get your car documents sorted out with Rio's fantastically inefficient traffic authority DETRAN.

In terms of good football, Palmeiras have been Brazil's best team for several years. Last year, they won the Sao Paulo championship in style, scoring 102 goals in 30 games with results that included a 6-0 win away to Santos.

They are again on form this year, currently top of their group in the Sao Paulo championship and they look set for a place in the last four of the Copa Brasil.

On a good day, Palmeiras could give any club side in the world a run for their money. For a variety of reasons, however, Palmeiras have stumbled in international competitions. The nearest they have come to winning the Libertadores Cup was in 1995, when they reached the quarter-finals. A place in this year's competition eluded them completely.

Palmeiras' problem is that they have not been able to win at the right times – something that is crucial in Brazil where the format of the championships means that winning games consistently does not guarantee a title. They have also seen a stream of players depart for Europe and Japan – the list includes Roberto Carlos, Zinho, Cesar Sampaio, Evair, Muller, Amaral, Flavio Conceicao and Rivaldo.

Gremio has become a particularly dirty word in the Palmeiras dictionary. The Porto Alegre club have knocked Palmeiras out of three competitions in the past two years, each time in dubious circumstances.

The Libertadores Cup quarter-final tie two years ago left the bitterest taste. Gremio won the first leg in Porto Alegre 5-0 – but only after a brawl held up the game for nearly 10 minutes and clearly left Palmeiras disorientated.

Earlier that year, Gremio had also eliminated Palmeiras from the Copa Brasil in another vicious encounter. Gremio had three players sent off in the second leg but still managed to draw 2-2 and went through on away goals.

The two were pitted against each other for a third time in the quarter-finals of the Brazilian championship last November, when Palmeiras were trying to add this title to their Sao Paulo championship win. Once again, there was trouble, with two players from Palmeiras and one from Gremio being sent off in the first leg in Porto Alegre, which Gremio won 3-1. Palmeiras could only manage a 1-0 win in the second leg. It was a sad end to a magnificent year which deserved more than just the Sao Paulo title.

Palmerias, founded in 1914 as Palestra Italia by Italian immigrants in Sao Paulo, had been a force in Brazilian football up to the mid-1970s, winning two of the first three Brazilian championships after the competition was started in 1971. The club went into the doldrums in the late 1970s, winning nothing until the early 1990s.

The resurgence came after an agreement signed with dairy company Parmalat in 1992. The company are more than just sponsors. They 'own' several players and also help to run the club on a professional basis – a significant contrast to most other Brazilian clubs where the power lies with directors who seem hell-bent on selling their best players and appear to get perverse gratification from sacking managers. As former manager Wanderley Luxemburgo said: "Many directors do things at their clubs they would never dream of doing at their own companies."

The Parmalat partnership bore immediate fruits. Under Luxemburgo, Palmeiras won the Sao Paulo championship in 1993, their first major title in 16 years, and the Brazilian championship the same year. They repeated the double in 1994, but international success eluded them.

They lost out to Tele Santana's Sao Paulo in the Libertadores and at the end of the year Luxemburgo and several key players (Zinho, Cesar Sampaio and Evair) left for Japan. The next year, 1995, was again barren.

Luxemburgo's personal career also took a turn for the worse after he left the club. He spent four months at Flamengo only to be sacked after daring to punish Romario for missing training. He then moved onto Parana, where he achieved results which were considered reasonable by the club's moderate standards. A second marriage with Palmeiras, however, was obviously in the interests of both parties and it came about in time for 1996.

The new-look Palmeiras reflected Luxemburgo's ideals. "I think Palmeiras have started re-making football with Brazilian characteristics," he said. "I want to show that Brazilian football continues to be the best in the world and can do this by keeping its characteristics, which means being offensive." The new version, according to Luxemburgo, involves making players more versatile rather than more defensive.

The most important newcomer was Djalminha, a left-footed attacking midfielder with prodigious talent. Other important buys were Junior, a speedy left-back who has more than made up for the gap left by the departure of Roberto Carlos in mid-1995, and Luizao, a sullen-faced but prolific goalscorer from Guarani. These players were added to the existing talents of Rivaldo and Flavio Conceicao (now with Deportivo La Coruna), Amaral (now at Parma) and Cafu.

**'On a good day, Palmeiras could give any club side in the world a run for their money'**

The team walked away with the Sao Paulo championship winning 27 of their 30 games, Luizao scoring 22. Palmeiras also looked unstoppable in the Copa Brasil, where they even managed to beat Gremio in the semi-finals despite yet another bad-tempered second leg when defender Sandro was sent off.

A 1-1 draw away to Cruzeiro in the first leg of the final seemed to set them up for victory but then, almost inexplicably, they lost 2-1 at home in the second leg after a defensive lapse allowed Cruzeiro to claim the winner eight minutes from the end.

More rebuilding, however, was needed for the second half of the year in which the Brazilian championship is played, as Rivaldo, Flavio Conceicao and Amaral had left the club. The biggest signing was Colombia's Freddy Rincon, who had spent six months at the club in 1994.

Rincon, who suffered miserable spells at Napoli and Real Madrid, was offered a lifeline by Palmeiras. Since rejoining the club, his confidence has returned and with it the cheeky flicks and backheels which have always marked his game.

After a moderate start in the Brazilian championship, the goals began flowing again until November, when striker Viola joined from Valencia in Spain. Far from inspiring the team, Viola's arrival seemed to unsettle it and the goals dried up. Palmeiras ended up finishing third and were then eliminated by Gremio.

At the start of this year, Luxemburgo left for Santos. He was to be replaced by 65-year-old Tele Santana, but his health apparently is still not up to the pressures of management. Instead, Luxemburgo's assistant Marcio Araujo took over. He initially took the drastic step of dropping Viola from the team. But since then, Viola and Luizao have come to understand and complement each other. Viola is now top scorer in the *Paulista* with 14 goals, while Luizao has 12.

Between them, they may be able to take Palmeiras to greater heights and even international success.

**Green for go...Palmeiras fans can justifiably expect success in the coming seasons**



## The Squad

### THE COACH

**Marcio ARAUJO (7.5.60)**
Long-serving club employee and former assistant to Wanderley Luxemburgo with no previous managerial experience. Early performances suggest he has learnt well from his mentor. Midfielder as a player.

### GOALKEEPERS

**Fernando VELOSO (22.9.68)**
Dependable keeper who has been at Palmeiras since 1989. Won one cap for Brazil in a friendly against Spain in 1990 (lost 3-0).

**MARCOS Roberto Silveira Rios (4.8.73)**
Regular second-choice currently sidelined through injury. Played in last year's Brazilian championship when Veloso was injured and performed so impressively that Mario Zagallo included him in the Brazil squad against Lithuania.

**MARCELO Moreira (21.10.74)**
Third choice keeper.

### DEFENDERS

**AGNALDO Liz de Souza (7.6.68)**
Reserve signed this year after five seasons with Vitoria. Central defender.

**CAFU Marcos Evangelista de Moraes (19.6.70)**
Attacking right-back who can also play in midfield. Included in the Brazil squad for the 1994 World Cup and came on as a substitute in the Final following injury to Jorginho. He began his career with Sao Paulo, where he won two Libertadores Cups, and joined Palmeiras after spells with Real Zaragoza (Spain) and Juventude, a move which angered Sao Paulo who claimed to have an agreement under which they had first choice if Cafu returned to Brazil. 43 full internationals (one goal) for Brazil.

**CASSIANO Mendes da Rocha (4.12.75)**
Reserve who started with Mogi Mirim and had brief stints with Gremio and Santa Cruz.

**CLEBER Americo de Conceicao (26.7.69)**
A regular at the heart of the defence since joining from Logrones of Spain in 1993. Last year showed unexpected gift for scoring classy goals. Seven Brazil caps.

**DEDIMAR Souza Lima (27.1.76)**
Reserve full-back signed from Juventude.

**JUNIOR (Genilson Angelo de Souza) (20.6.73)**
One of Brazilian football's biggest revelations last year. A speedy player and one of the team's most important attacking assets. Came on as sub for Brazil against Bosnia in December to claim his first cap. Joined from Vitoria.

**ROQUE JUNIOR or JUNIOR II (Jose Vitor Roque Junior) (31.8.76)**
Reserve central defender raised at the club.

**SANDRO Rogerio Blum (3.7.70)**
Partners Cleber at the centre of the defence. A *gaucho* (from the south of Brazil) signed at the start of 1996. Previously with Gremio, Esportivo and Juventude.

### MIDFIELDERS

**DJALMINHA (Djalma Feitosa Dias) (9.12.70)**
Hugely skilful and hugely temperamental, although his head seems to have remained reasonably well screwed on since he joined Palmeiras. Kicked out of Flamengo, the club that raised him, after coming to blows with team-mate Renato Portaluppi in 1993. He then spent two years with Guarani, where he had more disciplinary problems, before joining Palmeiras at the start of 1996. Finally made his Brazil debut against Lithuania last year. A strong candidate for the World Cup team.

**EDMILSON Edmilson Matias (26.3.74)**
Joined this year. Usually a substitute.

**Freddy RINCON (14.8.66) (Col)**
A stalwart of the Colombian national side for the best part of a decade. Tall and lanky, likes to indulge in clever flicks and backheels. Played for Palmeiras in the first half of 1994 at the end of which he said he would never play for the club again, claiming the fans treated him badly. Forced to change his mind after his career took a nosedive in two miserable years at Napoli and Real Madrid. Since returning to Palmeiras he appears to have found his touch again, though the demands of the Colombian national team have resulted in him missing a lot of games and he habitually returns late. Raised with Independiente Medellin, also played for America of Cali.

**Marcos Aurelio GALEANO (28.3.72)**
Began his career with Palmeiras six years ago and played on loan with Juventude for two years. A reserve during the Sao Paulo championship last year, he got more of a look-in during the following Brazilian championship, turning in some good performances in front of the defence.

**LEANDRO Corona (6.4.71)**
Raised at Vasco da Gama, hard-tackling midfielder whose distribution sometimes lets him down. Seven caps for Brazil but not at present enjoying his best form. Won the Brazilian championship with Botafogo in 1995.

**MARQUINHOS (Marcos Correa dos Santos) (2.10.71)**
A skilful player with a powerful shot who has found his feet with the club this year for the first time since joining them at the start of 1996. Raised at Flamengo where he won the Brazilian championship in 1992. Between 1990 and 1993, he won two full international and two age-restricted caps for Brazil in friendlies.

**Djalminha**

**Viola**

**SERGIO SOARES da Silva (11.1.67)**
Reserve midfielder who has gone back and forth between Guarani and Palmeiras since 1994.

**WAGNER Alves dos Santos (28.12.73)**
Played in the Brazil team that won the world Under-20 championship in Australia in 1993. Has spent a lot of time in the reserves after joining from Juventus of Sao Paulo in 1995 but has been getting more of a look-in this year after switching from midfield to the centre of the defence.

### FORWARDS

**FERNANDO Rech (13.3.74)**
Joined from Juventude at the start of year.

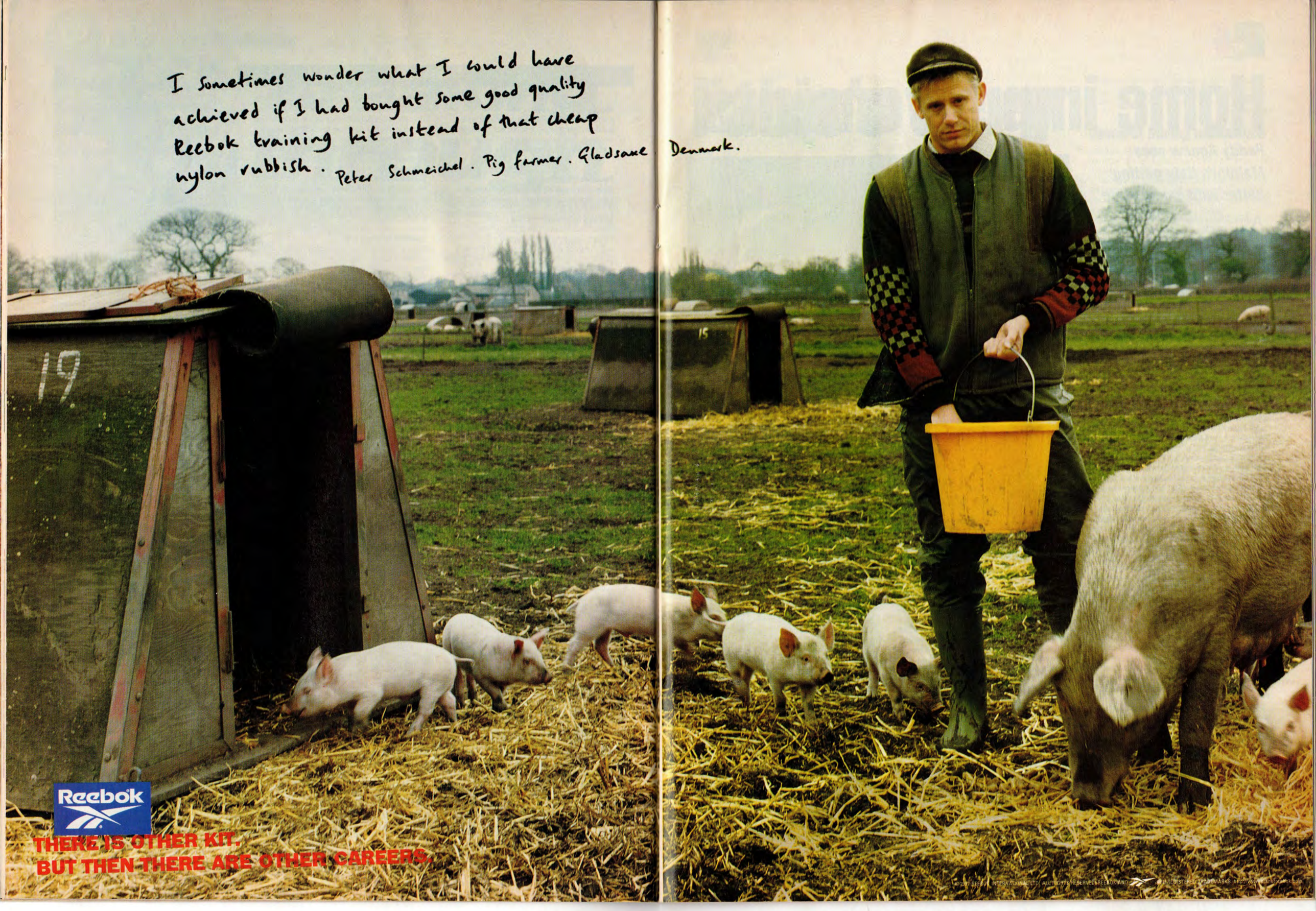
**LUIZAO (Luis Carlos Goulart) (14.11.74)**
The sort of striker who does little else other than score goals. Seen as a misery off the field and has a bit of a disciplinary problem on it. Five appearances for Brazil's Olympic team, all last year, and one goal. Back to form this year after playing poorly at the end of last year.

**ROGERIO Rogerio Fidelis Regis (28.12.76)**
Reserve who was raised at the club.

**VIOLA Paulo Sergio Rosa (1.1.69)**
Goalscorer famous for his eccentric celebrations. Included in the 1994 World Cup squad, his only appearance was in the second half of extra time in the Final when he nearly won the game on his own. Eight caps for Brazil and three goals. A hero for Corinthian fans when he was with the club, he had trouble settling down with Valencia in Spain (he said he hated the food). Made a dreadful start after joining Palmeiras and at one stage was left out of the team. Now back to his best.

**PALMEIRAS - HOW THEY LINE UP**

I sometimes wonder what I could have achieved if I had bought some good quality Reebok training kit instead of that cheap nylon rubbish. Peter Schmeichel. Pig farmer. Gladsaxe Denmark.




THERE IS OTHER KIT.
BUT THEN THERE ARE OTHER CAREERS.

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ITALY

# Home improvements

## *Paddy Agnew sees Maldini's Italy getting better with every game*

AFTER THE disappointments of last summer and the uncertainties of last autumn, this has been a remarkably positive springtime for Italian soccer.

The seemingly relentless march of Cesare Maldini's World Cup squad along the road to France 98 and the presence of Italian clubs in two of the three European club finals has dispelled any doubts that arose after last year's European Championship and Olympics debacles, not to mention the departure to England of talents such as Gianfranco Zola, Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli.

We dealt with Italy's World Cup campaign at some length last month. It is sufficient to add here that everything positive said then was emphatically underlined by Italy's impressive 3-0 home win against Poland in Naples. With just two games to play in autumn, away to Georgia and at home to England, Italy are looking good on top of Group 2.

As far as the rest of the world is concerned, that Naples win only confirmed an already disturbing trend – namely that Cesare Maldini's Italy gets better from match to match. Make no mistake, come France next year, Italy will be among the World Cup favourites.

At club level, Juventus continue to play the part of Italian standard bearer with more than dignity. Their 2-1 away and 4-1 home wins against Ajax in their Champions League semi-final tie underlined the club's seemingly uncanny ability to peak just when it needs to and, furthermore, to make light of the injury-enforced absence of key players.

If there is a better club side in Europe this season, we have yet to see it. German side Borussia Dortmund, Juve's Champions League final opponents, have been warned.

The other Italian finalists, of course, are Internazionale, whose successful end-of-season run looks like it will leave a deal of egg on the face of those persons – club directors, VIP fans, media – who argued that English coach Roy Hodgson simply was not up to the job.

Hodgson, of course, opted to jump before he was pushed. The Englishman leaves Inter at the end of the season to take up the manager's job at Blackburn Rovers, thus returning to his native land after 16 years' uninterrupted (i.e. without the sack) work on mainland Europe – with Swedish club Malmo, Swiss club Neuchatel, the Swiss national team and now Inter. Hodgson could yet leave in a blaze of anti-climactic glory, leaving not only a UEFA Cup trophy on the sideboard but also a Champions League qualification as runner-up in Serie A.

Hodgson is leaving because he has not been able to run the Inter show in the way he wanted, and his imminent departure prompted some admittedly partisan reflections from his colleague, Carlos Bianchi.

The Argentinian became the sixth Serie A coach to be sacked this season when Roma off-loaded him following a 2-1 away defeat by relegation battlers Cagliari, coached ironically by Carlos Mazzone, the man sacked by Roma last summer. Bianchi was prompted after his sacking to suggest that all was not fair in the treatment of foreign coaches in Serie A. He pointed out that five of the six dumped until then had been foreign – Uruguayan Gregorio Perez at Cagliari (replaced by Carlo Mazzone), Romanian Mircea Lucescu at Reggiana (Francesco Oddo), Uruguayan Oscar Washington Tabarez at Milan (Arrigo Sacchi), Czech Zdenek Zeman at Lazio (Dino Zoff) and Bianchi himself, replaced by 72-year-old grandfather, Swede Nils Liedholm.

"They [the Italian soccer community] use different standards for different people… For example, Carlo Ancelotti is currently being lauded for having success with a Parma side that has been successful for a number of seasons and contains eight international players. In contrast, people are very critical of Roy Hodgson who, according to them, has been a failure at Inter even though the team is in the UEFA Cup final, is third in the league and was knocked out of the Italian Cup only in a semi-final penalty shoot-out [by Napoli]…"

**Lifting the Blues…Roberto Baggio rounds Poland keeper Andrzej Wozniak to score Italy's third in Naples**

Bianchi might have a point. However, Luigi Simoni is Italian and he, too, had achieved at least one important result in guiding Napoli to an Italian Cup final clash with Vicenza. Yet neither his Italian passport nor that final were enough to save Simoni from the sack. He, was given the heave-ho following his side's 1-0 home loss to Atalanta.

Simoni became Serie A coach number seven to be dismissed this season (Giovanni Galeone replaced by Nevio Scala at Perugia had been the only other Italian to go). Simoni's sacking, however, was not related to results alone. In truth, it seemed Napoli sacked him in a fit of pique following confirmation from Inter president Massimo Moratti that he had engaged Simoni for the 1997-98 season.

Napoli directors and others suggested that Simoni was more concerned with sorting out arrangements for next season at Inter than for preparing Napoli's end-of-season run and Cup final. Simoni, needless to say, bitterly rejected the accusations but he was still forced to walk, being replaced by youth team coach Vincenzo Montefusco.

Bianchi's criticism about the treatment of foreign coaches may contain a small grain of truth, yet it is also probably true to say that discrimination plays a smaller role in the fate of non-Italian coaches than the fact that they face difficult problems in adapting themselves (linguistically and culturally) to Italian soccer.

What is definitely true is that at the moment of writing, only one foreigner, Swede Sven Goran Eriksson, is sure to be coaching in Serie A next season. Eriksson, currently in his fifth season with Sampdoria, will be moving to Lazio in the summer.

Elsewhere, at least one big gun seems to be looking for an all-Italian boy, tried and true, to take over as coach. With Arrigo Sacchi struggling hopelessly at Milan, losing seven out of 17 Serie A games since taking over from Oscar Washington Tabarez and being humiliated in 6-1 and 3-1 defeats by Juventus and Inter respectively, the outgoing champions have turned to Fabio Capello (*see right*), whose prodigal son return to Milan is the worst-kept secret in Italian soccer. Capello, by the way, returns on a three-year contract worth some £1.1million a year.

One man apparently willing to swim against the tide may be 1978 World Cup-winning Argentinian coach, Cesare Menotti. He is at present with Independiente in Argentina, but reportedly negotiating a move to Sampdoria. Menotti will need all his vast experience and skill, and a deal of luck, to survive in Italy.



SPAIN

# Fabio's fiery farewell

## *Seven months in Madrid end in angry recrimination*

APRIL 28 will go down as Black Monday in the Real Madrid history book – the day that Italian coach Fabio Capello revealed in a late-night local radio interview that he intended quitting at the season's end, after only seven months in the job.

Speculation had been rife, and in particular after a two-day 'holiday' trip home the previous week, that Capello had secretly agreed terms with Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi for next season. But Capello refused point-blank – at a tumultuous two-minute press conference the next day – to confirm as much.

Instead months of pent-up frustration were let loose as he laid into Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz. Capello said: "For a week I have had big doubts whether to stay with Real Madrid or not and I let the president know. I took the decision to leave only two days ago after a dialogue with the club's directors proved impossible.

"It's a lie to say I have already signed for someone else. But you can't work in a place where private discussions are always appearing the next day in the media, where people don't know how to conduct themselves honourably. For example, when we spoke of players, their names appeared the next day in the press. I cannot work in this way."

Capello, 51, guided Milan to the Champions Cup and four League titles in five years before moving to Madrid on a £1.5million-a-year two-season contract last summer. His brief was clear: to win the league title this season and the Champions League next term. Capello's tough disciplinary methods upset many of Madrid's senior players but the results he produced had delighted the fans. Madrid were eight points clear with seven games remaining as Capello dropped his bombshell.

This was one juicy titbit nobody else inside Real Madrid had been able to leak in advance. A shocked Sanz said: "The immediate reaction of the majority of our directors was in favour of Capello's immediate sacking. We will certainly not be making any kind of severance agreement. However, the most important thing is to win the championship and we should not let off-field problems upset the team's effort. We'll have to try to pull together as best we can."

Back home in Italy, Capello was reported to have said: "I am furious with the amount of secret information which this club leaks to the press. My experience in Spanish football has been unique but it has been extremely wearing because being a coach here is 10 times more difficult than working in Italy.

"The worst thing is the persecution by the media. People will wake you up at one in the morning to plug you directly into a radio programme and invent the most incredible things. I thought that coming here would be a sort of liberation, but it is much worse than in Italy. Working here drives you mad."

Capello said that one of the main stumbling blocks in Madrid had been a clause in his contract forbidding him from joining Barcelona for three seasons after leaving Madrid. He said: "That is the clearest sign of lack of confidence in me. I am a free agent and I can do what I like in the future."

He angrily denied that he had already sounded out several Madrid players about going with him to Milan in the summer. Argentinian midfielder Fernando Redondo, Brazil left-back Roberto Carlos and Italy's Christian Panucci had all been mentioned. Capello said: "That's also a lie. I have not talked to, nor am I going to talk to, any Madrid player about leaving the club for next season. I repeat that at the moment I have not signed for any club in the world."

**Driven mad by Madrid…Fabio Capello**

German coach Jupp Heynckes is the favourite to take over from Capello. Only four days before the Capello issue boiled over, Heynckes had handed in his notice at UEFA Cup semi-finalists Tenerife. Heynckes, in the familiar double-speak of these situations, said he had made no agreements for next season but "I would like to stay in Spain and, one day, take a Spanish club into the Champions League". He is fed up with Tenerife for a variety of reasons, including the club's refusal to charter planes for the tiresome trips for away matches.

Whether Capello will last to the season's end is, at press time, doubtful after the welter of accusations flying around.

Sanz told one radio station: "Capello threatened to work badly to get the contract ended. He even negotiated with Barcelona vice-president Joan Gaspart behind our back. He made fun of us."

Sanz had hired Capello last year after a disastrous season in which the six-times European champions had failed to qualify for continental competition for only the second occasion in their history. It was no secret that Capello was no great admirer of some of the players Sanz had brought in – including strikers Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic.

Capello also hated having the president's son, young defender Fernando Sanz, in his squad. Whenever injuries or suspensions caused selection difficulties, Capello went to extreme lengths NOT to call up Sanz junior.

***Keir Radnedge***

## Beware! Mining subsidence

ASTURIAS, Spain's greatest mining area, is the home of one of the country's lesser-sung but most passionate local derbies, between Sporting Gijon and Real Oviedo.

When the supporters of both clubs suddenly saw RELEGATION written in capital letters before their eyes in mid-April, the coal-dust really hit the fan. Within 24 hours of each other, both managers were sacked.

Benito Floro ruefully said: "I hope this is the correct decision for Gijon," and Juan Manuel Lillo, with equal elegance, commented: "I trust my dismissal will help Oviedo stay up." In came Messrs Montes and Novo to work some sort of oracle.

The double trouble down at t' mines brought the total of First Division coaches sacked during this season to 15.

The coal-dust had barely settled when there was a major explosion at Second Division Mallorca. The coach, former Spanish international Victor Munoz, and his assistant, Pichi Alonso (both first-teamers with Terry Venables' Barcelona in the mid-1980s), were also given the order of the boot. Mildly surprising, considering that Mallorca were top of the League with only six games to play.

The decision had been taken unilaterally by Bartolome Beltran, a character who rose to fame as a sort of TV doctor in an *Antena 3* show. He used medical terms to explain the dismissal. "Let's say the club once had seven litres of blood," he said. "Well, now it's only got two."

Victor and Pichi were almost too stunned to tell him where he could best put his stethoscope. "I suppose," said Pichi, "this is because we wouldn't accept the people he hired and refused to let him select the team." In stepped club stalwart Tomeu Llompart, muttering, "Beltran is the owner of the club and I have to do what he says."

The bottom line is that Mallorca had become the 14th Second Division club to change managers during the season and three of them have changed twice.

The total of 32 sackings in the top two divisions confirms that the distance between boardroom and bench has never been so great. What's more, most of the survivors are set to pack their bags at the end of the season. Bobby Robson's trials and tribulations are described elsewhere in this issue *(page 20)*. The Compostela coach, Fernando Vazquez, was actually out of a job for a few hours, sacked by Jose Maria Caneda, the president deemed by Jesus Gil to warrant a punch in the face on the way into a Football League meeting last year.

Vazquez's crime? Calling up a lad named Fonsi from the nursery club Vista Alegre to take part in a friendly against the Argentinian side Deportivo Espanol. According to Caneda, nobody called up Vista Alegre boys without his permission. He was later persuaded by club directors to revoke his decision. "It's about time the coaches realised their true place in life," he stormed.

On the contract front, Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez has put pen to paper on a new deal that guarantees him a cool £1.9million a year and includes a £30million minimum transfer fee clause. Meanwhile, Barcelona seem to have found financial support from four major companies prepared to help the Catalan club retain Ronaldo (*see last month*). The deal shortly to be offered to the player's agents guarantees £2.4million per year tax-free to the 20-year-old Brazilian. The contract is valid for 10 years and the buy-out clause stipulates a transfer fee of £45million.

Still with Barcelona and still with boardroom versus bench conflicts, you might remember that Josep Lluis Nunez and Johan Cruyff had sued each other, invoking an ancient law which entitles you to demand 'perpetual silence' from persons you feel have publicly insulted you. The result of the fixture in the law courts was a 0-0 defeat. Both petitions were turned down and Messrs Nunez and Cruyff have been ordered to pay costs…

***Graham Turner***

GERMANY

# Heads held high

## *Borussia have every reason to be proud, says Arthur Rotmil*

On target...Lars Ricken scored the winner for Dortmund in Manchester

A MASTERFUL tactical display of defending in depth against Manchester United helped Borussia Dortmund to reach the Champions Cup Final for the first time. They will meet Juventus on May 28, in Munich.

To some extent this could be termed home advantage, and they will be the first German team to contest the final for 10 years. Bayern were the last.

A goal by their youngest player, 20-year-old Lars Ricken, secured the 1-0 victory at Old Trafford, thus doubling the score from the first leg, in which Rene Tretschok hit the winner.

Yet Dortmund were again below strength, having five internationals under treatment: influential libero and reigning European Footballer of the Year Matthias Sammer, Brazilian centre-back Julio Cesar, midfielder Steffen Freund, Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa and Ghanaian Ibrahim Tanko.

Whether Borussia can overcome classy Juventus is open to debate, but the German champions have exceeded all expectations and can look forward to a financial bonanza which should surpass their previous record takings from the UEFA Cup run in 1993, when they were beaten in the final by...Juventus!

Attitude problem...Mario Basler

Hopefully, the Dortmunder can at last field their strongest side so that they can give the Italians a run for their money.

No other team in the Champions League has been as badly hit by injuries as

FRANCE

# Legally binding, morally wrong

## *Andre Duclos looks at the faults arising from the Bosman case*

THERE is increasingly bitter feeling in French football about the depredations of British and Italian clubs among our best young talent.

Critics point out that among the leading European soccer countries, France imports fewer and exports more players than almost any other, only perhaps Yugoslavia doing more of the latter. The Bosman Decision is proving an absolute disaster for our game. Not only are our clubs losing fine young talents they may have nurtured for years, but they are losing them without receiving a franc for their transfers.

The Nicolas Anelka case was the first. Arsenal swooped on this fine young attacker before he had even reached his 18th birthday and Paris Saint-Germain were powerless to stop it.

There were loud rumblings of protest and threats of legal action in the council chambers of French football, but these threats alas were empty. French football law might have said one thing. It was depressingly clear that the European Union and its courts would say another.

Legally Arsenal – and, since then, Juventus – were plainly in the clear. Morally...but where does morality come into it? As a bitter French critic remarked, the great problem here is that we are not talking about mature professional footballers, but kids.

Kids such as the giant 17-year-old goalkeeper, Sebastien Frey. This tremendous prospect, a major star of the French Under-17 team who recently acquitted themselves so well in La Paz in a Bolivian tournament, is to quit Cannes and go to Juventus. Once again, not only the Bosman ruling, whereby at the end of his contract an EU player can move to another EU country gratis, has prevailed; but also the grey area which involves young apprentices has been determining.

What with PSG's Lama facing a suspension for taking cannabis, and looking pretty shaky at Anfield in the Cup-winners Cup semi-final second leg, there is even talk of the precocious Frey being France's number three keeper in the 1998 World Cup finals. Cannes' immense loss is the far, far richer Juve's gain...for nothing.

Then there is 18-year-old Saliou Lassissi, another who seems booked and bound for Juventus, while his French club, little Rennes, will pocket nothing. Lassissi, a big central defender, comes from the Ivory Coast. His contract with Rennes lapses at the end of this season.

Lassissi allies physical power to exceptional technique, and is a sure star of the future. Some two years ago he arrived in France, never having played in a "real" game. He had played only beach soccer, pick-up games among friends. But his pals, impressed by his clear natural talent, advised him to try the Nantes Sporting Centre, reckoned to be the best of its kind in France.

Silly Centre. Silly Suaudeau, Coco Suaudeau, usually such a shrewd observer and assessor of young talent. Lassissi virtually received the cold shoulder, and, deeply discouraged, he walked out in a week. But his family got their francs together and sent him north to Rennes, where he was properly appreciated.

This season he made his debut in the League team, even though he did not command a regular place. His idol is Marcel Desailly, and like him he can play either centre-back or on the right of the midfield. But now it will be for Juventus, not Rennes.

Lilian Thuram is flourishing in Italy and has never been booked, despite his powerful physique and decisive play in defence. At least he brought a fee when he joined Parma last summer. Like that distinguished predecessor, Marius Tresor, Thuram comes from Guadeloupe.

Nils Liedholm, Swedish star in his day, famous manager for decades, back in charge of Roma at the age of 74, has called Thuram the best defender in Italy. Thuram, with typical modesty, says he is overjoyed by the compliment but must keep a sense of proportion because another manager might soon say that he is simply an ordinary player. That seems most unlikely.

Thuram, who wears spectacles off the pitch and contact lenses on it, says that the important thing is to fulfil the expectations of manager and directors, to help the club to get success.

He says he was especially lucky to arrive in Parma and find veteran French international Daniel Bravo there. "A humble, positive player, blessed with vast experience. He knows how to approach each phase of the season. The highs and the lows of a player's career. And then there's Roberto Mussi [the Italy full-back]." From him, Thuram says, he has learned how to make the most of training, and to control his emotions during a game.

A word about Christopher Wreh, the Liberian marksman, whose goal for

Borussia. In mid-April, between the two ties against Manchester United, the Bundesliga champions had a complete team on the injury list.

Since the beginning of the season Borussia's medical staff have had to deal with nine hamstring injuries, five torn ligaments and four cartilage operations. Team manager Ottmar Hitzfeld thinks that the constant demand to play two games a week has made some of his men injury-prone; there is simply no time to recover from knocks, to re-charge the batteries or regenerate physically.

"The fixture pile-up and the travelling are responsible for the spate of injuries, not using incorrect training schedules, as suggested in the media," says the club's doctor, Werner Bastians.

"We cannot compare our problems with conditions existing, say, at Leverkusen or Duisburg, who never seem to suffer from constant injuries, because our programme is infinitely tougher," insists club president Dr Gerd Niebaum.

A serious handicap for Borussia is the fact that the team's average age is 28. Only Freiburg have an older outfit, with an average age of 29.

Much has been made of the disagreement between the team's two biggest stars, with Matthias Sammer allegedly unhappy with Andy Moller's reluctance to perform defensive duties. These differences are not new, and seem to be a replica of the clashes of personality between Lothar Matthaus and Jurgen Klinsmann at Bayern Munich.

Bayern are favourites to win the title, but the management is still being criticised for buying players who do not fit in. Even Franz Beckenbauer stands accused of launching the reckless turnover of players since he became club president in 1991.

Local observers point out that in the past three years only three newcomers have fulfilled expectations: striker Alexander Zickler, goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and Klinsmann (Thomas Strunz is in his second spell in Munich). In that period there have been nine flops.

Klinsmann says he wants to do "everything in my power to help Bayern win the championship". He may be disappointed in his desire to play in the Champions League next season. After all, he has claimed his aim is to win European trophies, so why was he said to be contemplating joining Everton?

Another star who has problems at Bayern is the international midfielder Mario Basler. He has fallen out with some of his team-mates because of his attitude and is upset at being subbed so often and about not being able to play his normal attacking game.

For next season Bayern have engaged Brazilian striker Giovane Elber from VfB Stuttgart, at £3.5m, to replace Klinsmann, plus international midfielder Michael Tarnat from Karlsruhe for £2m and French international defender Bixente Lizarazu from Athletic Bilbao for an undisclosed fee.

He has been given a five-year contract and will take over on the left side of midfield from Christian Ziege.

**Bargain buy...Arsenal signed Nicolas Anelka without paying PSG a franc**

Guingamp against Montpellier took his team to our Cup Final. Wreh arrived at Monaco with George Weah in 1993, and says: "He's my cousin. He taught me football. I played with him for the Monrovia club, the Invisible Eleven. George is my model."

Praise for Monaco manager Jean Tigana, who let him move to Guingamp on the understanding that he would have a regular first team place. "I wanted to play, play, play and win," says Wreh. "I was sure that at Guingamp we would do something. We have everything to prove."

# Pro-file Claude Makelele

**Club** Nantes
**Country** France
**Born** February 18, 1973, in Zaire
**International debut** April 2, 1997, v Sweden
**International caps** 1
**Honours** French Championship 1995

**FOLLOWING in the footsteps of such illustrious performers as Deschamps, Desailly and Karembeu, Nantes midfielder Claude Makelele has become the latest graduate of the club's celebrated youth development scheme to take a bow on the international stage.**

**Zairean-born Makelele earned his chance with the national side – he made his debut in a friendly against Sweden in April – thanks to the prominent role he has played in Nantes' amazing 27-match unbeaten run. The sequence has enabled Jean-Claude Suaudeau's side to make a late bid to pip Paris Saint-Germain for France's second place in next season's Champions League.**

**Makelele's pace and trickery on the right flank are an essential component of the *Canaris* rapid counter-attacking game, and although he rarely scores, he has supplied much of the ammunition for Japhet N'Doram and Jocelyn Gourvennec.**

**His willingness to try the unexpected has proved a thorn in the side of defenders all over France, as a season which began abysmally now looks like ending with Nantes firmly restored to their rightful place among the nation's elite.**

**Unfortunately, as the supporters at La Beaujoire are painfully aware, when the door to international recognition opens for one of Nantes' bright young hopes, it is generally just a matter of time before the player flees the nest altogether towards greener financial pastures. Makelele is unlikely to buck this trend, and with Marseille, Arsenal and Sampdoria all rumoured to be keeping tabs on him, it is not so much a question of if he leaves so much as when.**

**However, the fact that France 98 is fast approaching means that the situation is not yet cut and dried. French coach Aime Jacquet has stressed that the contenders for his squad will have to be playing regular first team football next season, and as Christophe Dugarry has found out at Milan, that requirement may be easier to fulfil as a big fish in France than as a relative minnow at one of Europe's top clubs.**

**Makelele could move within France, but he appears to share the wanderlust of many of his international colleagues. "If I leave, it probably will be to go abroad," he says. "If I leave Nantes it would have to be to step up a level, and there aren't many clubs in France bigger than this one.**

**"In either case I won't make a final decision until the end of the season, but the World Cup is a major objective for me, so I cannot afford to get any move wrong. I have to be playing regularly at a high level, so if I have any doubts at all I will stay at Nantes."**

**Makelele will naturally wish to avoid the problems suffered by his erstwhile club colleague Reynald Pedros, now trying to rebuild his career at Parma after a disastrous move to Marseille last summer.**

**"When you leave the club where you developed as a younger player, there will naturally be problems," acknowledges Makelele. "And do you think the guy whose place you're supposed to be taking at the new club is just going to roll over and let you stroll in to the side? No, you have to fight it out with him."**

**So it appears that Claude Makelele's next destination is still uncertain. If he decides to go down the foreign paths favoured by so many of his fellow French internationals, it will be yet another blow to the prestige of the domestic game, and the management at Nantes will be hoping that their latest glittering prize can resist the temptation of a move so they can call on his services for at least one more year.**

***Dominique Baldy***

My blue heaven . . . match-winner Steve Claridge raises the Coca-Cola Cup after a 1-0 win at Hillsborough

# O'Neill makes right mark

## *Leicester's manager is worth a title, says John Kelly*

IF there's any such thing as justice in football, then Leicester City's Martin O'Neill should be the Manager of the Year. O'Neill, a likeable Irishman who is always ready with a sharp one-liner for the press, has taken City to the brink of Premiership safety on a shoestring budget and their cup exploits this season have been thrilling.

Leicester, remember, were denied a place in the FA Cup quarter-finals by a ludicrous penalty decision in favour of Chelsea in the fifth round. In the Coca-Cola League Cup, however, Leicester proved that team-work and effort can triumph against money and imported skill. In the final, against Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough, O'Neill used Sweden's Pontus Kaamark to mark Juninho out of the game. Kaamark, in an amazingly honest interview, questioned whether it was morally right to deny the fans the chance to see Juninho's skills, but was prepared to do the job again in the replay which followed the 1-1 draw at Wembley. In the Hillsborough replay, a single goal by ragamuffin striker Steve Claridge was enough to take the trophy to the Midlands, giving Leicester a place in the UEFA Cup next season. For Middlesbrough, the pain of defeat was slightly eased by the prospect of another trip to Wembley in the FA Cup Final.

In the semi-final, they were held to a dramatic 3-3 draw by Second Division Chesterfield, who were unlucky not to win, but Boro made sure in the replay with a 3-0 victory. Their opponents in the Final will be Chelsea, who were far too good for Wimbledon in the other semi-final.

Manchester United remain on course to retain their FA Premier League title, despite the disappointment of their Champions League Cup semi-final elimination by Borussia Dortmund. A 1-0 defeat home and away showed the gap in class and experience between the two sides, and raised all the old doubts about the quality of the English game.

Much of the soul-searching centred around Eric Cantona, United's imperious Frenchman who has been playing well within himself for much of this season. Cantona has another year left on his current contract, and the immediate speculation was that he would not be offered an extension. That was emphatically denied by the United hierarchy but the very fact that Cantona's role has been questioned shows the anxiety inside Old Trafford.

United's 3-1 victory at Anfield has all but ended the title fight, leaving Liverpool with their own internal inquest to undertake. The Cup-winners Cup semi-final defeat by Paris St Germain, despite a dogged attempt to overhaul a 3-0 deficit in the second leg, leaves Liverpool without a trophy for the second season running. The immediate problem for Liverpool seems to be a lack of bite in midfield, prompting speculation that manager Roy Evans will break the bank to land Inter's unsettled Paul Ince during the summer.

Arsenal have stayed in touch with United for most of the run-in, despite Arsene Wenger's earlier claims that the title was beyond his side. Indeed, there has been a running battle between Wenger and Alex Ferguson over the United manager's wish to extend the season to help avoid a fixture pile-up. In the end, the FA sided with Wenger and United will get no extra help on the way to their fourth title in five seasons.

At the bottom, things look decidedly grim for Nottingham Forest. Bookmakers have installed them as odds-on favourites for the drop, putting Stuart Pearce's hopes of hanging on to the manager's job in jeopardy. Middlesbrough have games in hand and can still save themselves but unless they start winning soon they could suffer the ignominy of reaching two cup finals and being relegated in the same season.

It is hard to see the likes of Juninho, Fabrizio Ravanelli, Emerson and Mikkel Beck staying to play First Division football.

Sunderland, Coventry, West Ham and Southampton are the other clubs in the dog-fight, with Peter Reid's Sunderland the most out-of-form going into the final lap. Coventry have found the knack of stealing valuable points from games they were given no chance in, such as the 2-1 win at Anfield and the 1-1 draw at home to Arsenal, while West Ham have given themselves hope thanks to goals from Paul Kitson and John Hartson.

Southampton, too, are battling now, with former Plymouth striker Mickey Adams turning up trumps for them in recent matches.

Bolton Wanderers are the champions of Division One, in their final season at Burnden Park. Two goals in their last fixture would give Colin Todd's side a unique double of 100 points and 100 goals as they return to the top flight at the first attempt.

Danny Wilson's Barnsley, promoted to the top division for the first time in their 110-year history, will join Bolton in the Premiership. Barnsley's success denies big-spending Wolves automatic promotion, and Mark McGhee will have to settle for a play-off spot alongside Ipswich, Sheffield United and Crystal Palace.

Ipswich are the form team – five straight wins without conceding a goal – but it will be a first experience of the pressurised play-offs for the majority of the Portman Road team.





# World Cup 98 Briefing

Struggling side...age and injuries are hampering Germany's World Cup progress

# Stay lucky, Vogts

## *Arthur Rotmil sees some unusual problems with German preparations*

### Germany

GERMANY, the European champions, have been struggling so far in the World Cup qualifying campaign, and in no way justify their FIFA ranking as second in the world behind Brazil.

Only in the 5-1 win away to Armenia did they turn on the power and demonstrate the finishing which has made them Europe's most feared side.

Luckily for them, their group rivals have been taking points off each other and this might yet help the Germans to win the group and qualify outright.

An example of their inconsistency came in the away game against Albania. That poor country, ravaged by a virtual civil war, was forced to play the match in Granada in Spain. They fielded nine men who are at clubs abroad, including three with German teams, though not first choice. Yet the Albanians dominated, helped by being awarded three penalties, although only two were converted. A hat-trick by substitute Ulf Kirsten won the match for Germany.

Coach Berti Vogts is still undecided about his tactics. He wanted to start with three strikers, but eventually sent on two, Jurgen Klinsmann and Oliver Bierhoff, with two attacking midfielders, Andy Moller and Dariusz Wosz.

There were long periods when they could not find their rhythm, and when it was over they might have recalled the words of Matthias Sammer, the reigning European Footballer of the Year, who warned two years ago "German football is tactically 10 years behind the Italians".

Sammer explained: "We are winning matches mainly through physical strength and stamina. We have become so predictable that other countries, even the so-called minnows, have now caught up with us."

There are many who openly criticise Vogts for constantly finding excuses for his team's laborious performances. Experts insist the Germans won Euro 96 thanks to their discipline, efficiency and luck, which stayed with Vogts throughout. His nickname as a player was "terrier" and this description befits his defenders, too. But there are few ideas from midfield. Admittedly, Moller oozes class, but even so he is no Beckenbauer, no Overath, no Netzer.

It is true there have been injury problems. Thomas Hassler has been out of action since November, Thomas Helmer missed four games, and Sammer was out for four months. Not once since last summer has Vogts been able to name an unchanged team.

Furthermore, he can no longer rely on goals from Klinsmann. He has failed to score in the last four internationals and perhaps for the first time he is being criticised for his modest contribution.

Hopes are high that perhaps Sean Dundee can become a consistent striker, and Kirsten's hat-trick against Albania is certain to make him another contender for the forward role.

The biggest problem for Vogts, however, is age. In the last line-up nine players were about 30 or over. Kohler and Klinsmann already have announced they are planning to retire from international football, and for several others France 98 will be the final curtain call in national colours. But very few Germans believe the team are capable of bringing home a fourth World Cup.

### Results since USA 94

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 07.09.94 | Russia | D | 0-0 | Moscow |
| 12.10.94 | Hungary | D | 0-0 | Budapest |
| 16.11.94 | Albania | W | 2-1 | Tirana |
| 14.12.94 | Moldova | W | 3-0 | Chisinau |
| 18.12.94 | Albania | W | 2-1 | Kaiserslautern |
| 22.02.95 | Spain | D | 0-0 | Jerez |
| 29.03.95 | Georgia | W | 2-0 | Tbilisi |
| 26.04.95 | Wales | D | 1-1 | Dusseldorf |
| 07.06.95 | Bulgaria | L | 2-3 | Sofia |
| 21.06.95 | Italy | W | 2-0 | Zurich |
| 23.06.95 | Switzerland | W | 2-1 | Berne |
| 23.08.95 | Belgium | W | 2-1 | Brussels |
| 06.09.95 | Georgia | W | 4-1 | Nuremberg |
| 08.10.95 | Moldova | W | 6-1 | Leverkusen |
| 11.10.95 | Wales | W | 2-1 | Cardiff |
| 15.11.95 | Bulgaria | W | 3-1 | Berlin |
| 15.12.95 | South Africa | D | 0-0 | Johannesburg |
| 21.02.96 | Portugal | W | 2-1 | Porto |
| 27.03.96 | Denmark | W | 2-0 | Munich |
| 24.04.96 | Holland | W | 1-0 | Rotterdam |
| 29.05.96 | Northern Ireland | D | 1-1 | Belfast |
| 01.06.96 | France | L | 0-1 | Stuttgart |
| 04.06.96 | Liechtenstein | W | 9-1 | Mannheim |
| 09.06.96 | Czech Rep | W | 2-0 | Manchester |
| 16.06.96 | Russia | W | 3-0 | Manchester |
| 19.06.96 | Italy | D | 0-0 | Manchester |
| 23.06.96 | Croatia | W | 2-1 | Manchester |
| 26.06.96 | England | D | 1-1 | London |
| 30.06.96 | Czech Rep | W | 2-1 | London |
| 04.09.96 | Armenia | W | 5-1 | Erevan |
| 09.11.96 | Northern Ireland | D | 1-1 | Nuremberg |
| 14.12.96 | Portugal | D | 0-0 | Lisbon |
| 26.02.97 | Israel | W | 1-0 | Tel Aviv |
| 02.04.97 | Albania | W | 3-2 | Granada |
| 30.04.97 | Ukraine | W | 2-0 | Bremen |

Played 35, won 23, drawn 10, lost 2. Goals for 70, against 23.

### In the running...

| Goalkeepers | Club | Date of birth | Caps | Goals |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andreas KOPKE | Marseille (Fra) | 12.03.62 | 43 | - |
| Oliver KAHN | Bayern Munich | 15.06.69 | 6 | - |
| Oliver RECK | Werder Bremen | 27.02.65 | 1 | - |
| **Defenders** | | | | |
| Markus BABBEL | Bayern Munich | 08.09.72 | 24 | 1 |
| Thomas HELMER | Bayern Munich | 21.04.65 | 56 | 2 |
| Jurgen KOHLER | Borussia Dortmund | 06.10.65 | 90 | 1 |
| Stefan REUTER | Borussia Dortmund | 16.10.66 | 62 | 2 |
| Matthias SAMMER | Borussia Dortmund | 05.09.67 | 50 | 8 |
| Christian WORNS | Bayer Leverkusen | 10.05.72 | 8 | - |
| **Midfielders** | | | | |
| Mario BASLER | Bayern Munich | 18.12.68 | 21 | 1 |
| Dieter EILTS | Werder Bremen | 13.12.64 | 29 | - |
| Jorg HEINRICH | Borussia Dortmund | 06.12.69 | 4 | - |
| Andreas MOLLER | Borussia Dortmund | 02.09.67 | 71 | 25 |
| Dariusz WOSZ | VfL Bochum | 08.06.69 | 2 | 1 |
| Christian ZIEGE | Bayern Munich | 01.02.72 | 29 | 3 |
| Thomas HASSLER | Karlsruhe | 30.05.66 | 83 | 10 |
| Michael TARNAT | Karlsruhe | 27.10.69 | 3 | - |
| Steffen FREUND | Borussia Dortmund | 19.01.70 | 19 | - |
| Mehmet SCHOLL | Bayern Munich | 16.10.70 | 14 | 1 |
| Thomas STRUNZ | Bayern Munich | 25.04.68 | 34 | 1 |
| **Forwards** | | | | |
| Oliver BIERHOFF | Udinese (Ita) | 01.05.68 | 12 | 6 |
| Fredi BOBIC | VfB Stuttgart | 30.10.71 | 16 | 2 |
| Ulf KIRSTEN | Bayer Leverkusen | 04.12.65 | 20 | 9 |
| Jurgen KLINSMANN | Bayern Munich | 30.07.64 | 95 | 41 |
| Sean DUNDEE | Karlsruhe | 07.12.72 | 0 | - |

# World Cup 98 Briefing

*Who plays who on the road to France...Europe...Africa...Asia...Oceania...South America...finals schedule*

## EUROPE

(15 teams qualify)
(France qualify as hosts)
(9 group winners and best runner-up qualify directly)
(8 other runners-up enter home-and-away play-offs; matches drawn by lots)

The best runner-up will be the team which tops a table of the 9 runners-up, determined by the following:

1. Points gained in matches against the teams coming top, third and fourth in respective groups.
2. Goal difference in these games.
3. Goals scored in these games.
4. Goals scored in away games.
5. Play-off on neutral ground (October 19 1997).

### GROUP 1

24.04.96 Greece-Slovenia 2-0
01.09.96 Greece-Bosnia 3-0
01.09.96 Slovenia-Denmark 0-2
09.10.96 Denmark-Greece 2-1
08.10.96 Bosnia-Croatia 1-4
10.11.96 Slovenia-Bosnia 1-2
10.11.96 Croatia-Greece 1-1
29.03.97 Croatia-Denmark 1-1
02.04.97 Croatia-Slovenia 3-3
02.04.97 Bosnia-Greece 0-1
30.04.97 Denmark-Slovenia 4-0
30.04.97 Greece-Croatia 0-1
08.06.97 Denmark-Bosnia
20.08.97 Bosnia-Denmark
06.09.97 Croatia-Bosnia
06./07.09.97 Slovenia-Greece
10.09.97 Denmark-Croatia
10.09.97 Bosnia-Slovenia
11.10.97 Greece-Denmark
11.10.97 Slovenia-Croatia

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Denmark** | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 10 |
| **Greece** | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 10 |
| **Croatia** | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| **Bosnia-Herzegovina** | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| **Slovenia** | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 1 |

### GROUP 2

01.09.96 Moldova-England 0-3
05.10.96 Moldova-Italy 1-3
09.10.96 England-Poland 2-1
09.10.96 Italy-Georgia 1-0
09.11.96 Georgia-England 0-2
10.11.96 Poland-Moldova 2-1
12.02.97 England-Italy 0-1
29.03.97 Italy-Moldova 3-0
02.04.97 Poland-Italy 0-0
30.04.97 England-Georgia 2-0
30.04.97 Italy-Poland 3-0
31.05.97 Poland-England
07.06.97 Georgia-Moldova
14.06.97 Poland-Georgia
10.09.97 England-Moldova
10.09.97 Georgia-Italy
24.09.97 Moldova-Georgia
07.10.97 Moldova-Poland
11.10.97 Italy-England
11.10.97 Georgia-Poland

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Italy** | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 16 |
| **England** | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 12 |
| **Poland** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| **Georgia** | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| **Moldova** | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 0 |

### GROUP 3

02.06.96 Norway-Azerbaijan 5-0
31.08.96 Azerbaijan-Switzerland 1-0
01.09.96 Hungary-Finland 1-0
06.10.96 Finland-Switzerland 2-3
09.10.96 Norway-Hungary 3-0
10.11.96 Switzerland-Norway 0-1
10.11.96 Azerbaijan-Hungary 0-3
02.04.97 Azerbaijan-Finland 1-2
30.04.97 Norway-Finland 1-1
30.04.97 Switzerland-Hungary 1-0
08.06.97 Finland-Azerbaijan
08.06.97 Hungary-Norway
20.08.97 Finland-Norway
20.08.97 Hungary-Switzerland
06.09.97 Switzerland-Finland
06.09.97 Azerbaijan-Norway
10.09.97 Hungary-Azerbaijan
10.09.97 Norway-Switzerland
11.10.97 Finland-Hungary
11.10.97 Switzerland-Azerbaijan

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Norway** | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| **Switzerland** | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| **Hungary** | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| **Finland** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| **Azerbaijan** | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 3 |

### GROUP 4

01.06.96 Sweden-Belarus 5-1
31.08.96 Austria-Scotland 0-0
31.08.96 Belarus-Estonia 1-0
01.09.96 Latvia-Sweden 1-2
05.10.96 Estonia-Belarus 1-0
05.10.96 Latvia-Scotland 0-2
09.10.96 Sweden-Austria 0-1
09.10.96 Estonia- Scotland *postponed*
09.10.96 Belarus-Latvia 1-1
09.11.96 Austria-Latvia 2-1
10.11.96 Scotland-Sweden 1-0
11.02.97* Estonia-Scotland 0-0
29.03.97 Scotland-Estonia 2-0
02.04.97 Scotland-Austria 2-0
30.04.97 Austria-Estonia 2-0
30.04.97 Sweden-Scotland 2-1
30.04.97 Latvia-Belarus 2-0
18.05.97 Estonia-Latvia
08.06.97 Estonia-Sweden
08.06.97 Latvia-Austria
08.06.97 Belarus-Scotland
20.08.97 Estonia-Austria
20.08.97 Belarus-Sweden
06.09.97 Austria-Sweden
06.09.97 Scotland-Belarus
06.09.97 Latvia-Estonia
10.09.97 Sweden-Latvia
10.09.97 Belarus-Austria
11.10.97 Austria-Belarus
11.10.97 Scotland-Latvia
11.10.97 Sweden-Estonia
* played in Monaco

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Scotland** | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 14 |
| **Austria** | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 10 |
| **Sweden** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 9 |
| **Latvia** | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| **Estonia** | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| **Belarus** | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 4 |

### GROUP 5

01.09.96 Israel-Bulgaria 2-1
01.09.96 Russia-Cyprus 4-0
08.10.96 Luxembourg-Bulgaria 1-2
09.10.96 Israel vs. Russia 1-1
10.11.96 Cyprus vs. Israel 2-0
10.11.96 Luxembourg vs. Russia 0-4
14.12.96 Cyprus vs. Bulgaria 1-3
15.12.96 Israel-Luxembourg 1-0
29.03.97 Cyprus-Russia 1-1
30.03.97 Luxembourg-Israel 0-3
02.04.97 Bulgaria-Cyprus 4-1
30.04.97 Israel-Cyprus 2-0
30.04.97 Russia-Luxembourg 3-0
08.06.97 Bulgaria-Luxembourg
08.06.97 Russia-Israel
20.08.97 Bulgaria-Israel
07.09.97 Luxembourg-Cyprus
10.09.97 Bulgaria-Russia
11.10.97 Cyprus-Luxembourg
11.10.97 Russia-Bulgaria

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Israel** | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| **Russia** | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 11 |
| **Bulgaria** | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 9 |
| **Cyprus** | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 4 |
| **Luxembourg** | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 0 |

### GROUP 6

24.04.96 Yugoslavia-Faroe Islands 3-1
02.06.96 Yugoslavia-Malta 6-0
31.08.96 Faroe Islands-Slovakia 1-2
04.09.96 Faroe Islands-Spain 2-6
18.09.96 Czech Rep-Malta 6-0
22.09.96 Slovakia-Malta 6-0
06.10.96 Faroe Islands-Yugoslavia 1-8
09.10.96 Czech Rep-Spain 0-0
23.10.96 Slovakia-Faroe Islands 3-0
10.11.96 Yugoslavia-Czech Rep 1-0
13.11.96 Spain-Slovakia 4-1
14.12.96 Spain-Yugoslavia 2-0
18.12.96 Malta-Spain 0-3
12.02.97 Spain-Malta 4-0
31.03.97 Malta-Slovakia 0-2
02.04.97 Czech Rep-Yugoslavia 1-2
30.04.97 Malta-Faroe Islands 1-2
30.04.97 Yugoslavia-Spain 1-1
21.05.97 Slovakia-Czech Rep
08.06.97 Spain-Czech Rep
08.06.97 Yugoslavia-Slovakia
08.06.97 Faroe Islands-Malta
20.08.97 Czech Rep-Faroe Islands
06.09.97 Faroe Islands-Czech Rep
10.09.97 Slovakia-Yugoslavia
24.09.97 Malta-Czech Rep
24.09.97 Slovakia-Spain
11.10.97 Malta-Yugoslavia
11.10.97 Spain-Faroe Islands
11.10.97 Czech Rep-Slovakia

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Spain** | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 4 | 17 |
| **Yugoslavia** | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 5 | 13 |
| **Slovakia** | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 12 |
| **Czech Rep** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| **Faroe Islands** | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 23 | 3 |
| **Malta** | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 29 | 0 |

### GROUP 7

02.06.96 San Marino-Wales 0-5
31.08.96 Belgium-Turkey 2-1
31.08.96 Wales-San Marino 6-0
05.10.96 Wales-Holland 1-3
09.10.96 San Marino-Belgium 0-3
09.11.96 Holland-Wales 7-1
10.11.96 Turkey-San Marino 7-0
14.12.96 Belgium-Holland 0-3
14.12.96 Wales-Turkey 0-0
29.03.97 Holland-San Marino 4-0
29.03.97 Wales-Belgium 1-2
02.04.97 Turkey-Holland 1-0
30.04.97 Turkey-Belgium 1-3
30.04.97 San Marino-Holland 0-6
07.06.97 Belgium-San Marino
20.08.97 Turkey-Wales
06.09.97 Holland-Belgium
10.09.97 San Marino-Turkey
11.10.97 Belgium-Wales
11.10.97 Holland-Turkey

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Holland** | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 3 | 15 |
| **Belgium** | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| **Turkey** | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 7 |
| **Wales** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 7 |
| **San Marino** | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 31 | 0 |

### GROUP 8

24.04.96 Macedonia-Liechtenstein 3-0
01.06.96 Iceland-Macedonia 1-1
31.08.96 Liechtenstein-Rep Ireland 0-5
31.08.96 Romania-Lithuania 3-0
05.10.96 Lithuania-Iceland 2-0
09.10.96 Iceland-Romania 0-4
09.10.96 Rep Ireland-Macedonia 3-0
09.10.96 Lithuania-Liechtenstein 2-1
09.11.96 Liechtenstein-Macedonia 1-11
10.11.96 Rep Ireland-Iceland 0-0
14.12.96 Macedonia-Romania 0-3
29.03.97 Romania-Liechtenstein 8-0
02.04.97 Lithuania-Romania 0-1
02.04.97 Macedonia-Rep Ireland 3-2
30.04.97 Liechtenstein-Lithuania 0-2
30.04.97 Romania-Rep Ireland 1-0
07.06.97 Rep Ireland-Liechtenstein
07.06.97 Macedonia-Iceland
11.06.97 Iceland-Lithuania
19.08.97 Liechtenstein-Iceland
20.08.97 Rep Ireland-Lithuania
20.08.97 Romania-Macedonia
06.09.97 Iceland-Rep Ireland
06.09.97 Liechtenstein-Romania
06.09.97 Lithuania-Macedonia
10.09.97 Romania-Iceland
10.09.97 Lithuania-Rep Ireland
11.10.97 Iceland-Liechtenstein
11.10.97 Rep Ireland-Romania
11.10.97 Macedonia-Lithuania

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Romania** | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 18 |
| **FYR Macedonia** | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 10 | 10 |
| **Lithuania** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| **Rep of Ireland** | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 7 |
| **Iceland** | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| **Liechtenstein** | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 31 | 0 |

### GROUP 9

31.08.96 Northern Ireland-Ukraine 0-1
31.08.96 Armenia-Portugal 0-0
05.10.96 Northern Ireland-Armenia 1-1
05.10.96 Ukraine-Portugal 2-1
09.10.96 Albania-Portugal 0-3
09.10.96 Armenia-Germany 1-5
09.11.96 Albania-Armenia 1-1
09.11.96 Germany-Northern Ireland 1-1
09.11.96 Portugal-Ukraine 1-0
14.12.96 Northern Ireland-Albania 2-0
14.12.96 Portugal-Germany 0-0
29.03.97 Albania-Ukraine 0-1
29.03.97 Northern Ireland-Portugal 0-0
02.04.97 Albania-Germany 2-3
02.04.97 Ukraine-Northern Ireland 2-1
30.04.97 Germany-Ukraine 2-0
30.04.97 Armenia-Northern Ireland 0-0
07.05.97 Ukraine-Armenia
07.06.97 Portugal-Albania
07.06.97 Ukraine-Germany
20.08.97 Northern Ireland-Germany
20.08.97 Portugal-Armenia
20.08.97 Ukraine-Albania
06.09.97 Germany-Portugal
06.09.97 Armenia-Albania
10.09.97 Albania-Northern Ireland
10.09.97 Germany-Armenia
11.10.97 Germany-Albania
11.10.97 Portugal-Northern Ireland
11.10.97 Armenia-Ukraine

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ukraine** | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 12 |
| **Germany** | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 11 |
| **Portugal** | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| **Northern Ireland** | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 7 |
| **Armenia** | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| **Albania** | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 1 |

### PLAY OFFS

29.10.97 and 15.11.97.

## AFRICA

(5 teams qualify)

### SECOND ROUND

(Group winners qualify)

### GROUP 1

09.11.9 Nigeria-Burkina Faso 2-0
10.11.96 Guinea-Kenya 3-1
12.01.97 Kenya-Nigeria 1-1
12.01.97 Burkina Faso-Guinea 0-2
05.04.97 Nigeria-Guinea 2-1
05.04.97 Kenya-Burkina Faso 4-3
27.04.97 Burkina Faso-Nigeria 1-0
27.04.97 Kenya-Guinea 1-2
07.06.97 Nigeria-Kenya
08.06.97 Guinea-Burkina Faso
17.08.97 Guinea-Nigeria
17.08.97 Burkina Faso-Kenya

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nigeria** | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| **Kenya** | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| **Guinea** | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| **Burkina Faso** | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 0 |

### GROUP 2

08.11.96 Egypt-Namibia 7-1
10.11.96 Liberia-Tunisia 0-1
11.01.97 Namibia-Liberia 0-0
12.01.97 Tunisia-Egypt 1-0
06.04.97 Liberia-Egypt 1-0
06.04.97 Namibia-Tunisia 1-2
26.04.97 Namibia-Egypt 2-3
27.04.97 Tunisia-Liberia 2-0
06/07/08.06.97 Liberia-Namibia
08.06.97 Egypt-Tunisia
17.08.97 Egypt-Liberia
17.08.97 Tunisia-Namibia

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tunisia** | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 12 |
| **Egypt** | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 6 |
| **Liberia** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| **Namibia** | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 1 |

### GROUP 3

09.11.96 South Africa-Zaire 1-0
10.11.96 Congo-Zambia 1-0
11.01.97 Zambia-South Africa 0-0
12.01.97 Zaire-Congo 1-1
06.04.97 Congo-South Africa 2-0
06.04.97 Zaire-Zambia 2-2
27.04.97 Zambia-Congo 3-0
27.04.97 Zaire-South Africa 1-2
08.06.97 Congo-Zaire
08.06.97 South Africa-Zambia
17.08.97 South Africa-Congo
17.08.97 Zambia-Zaire

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Congo** | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| **South Africa** | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| **Zambia** | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| **Zaire** | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 |

### GROUP 4

10.11.96 Angola-Zimbabwe 2-1
10.11.96 Togo-Cameroon 2-4
12.01.97 Cameroon-Angola 0-0
12.01.97 Zimbabwe-Togo 3-0
06.04.97 Angola-Togo 3-1
06.04.97 Cameroon-Zimbabwe 1-0
27.04.97 Zimbabwe-Angola 0-0
27.04.97 Cameroon-Togo 2-0
08.06.97 Angola-Cameroon
08.06.97 Togo-Zimbabwe
17.08.97 Togo-Angola
17.08.97 Zimbabwe-Cameroon

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cameroon** | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 10 |
| **Angola** | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| **Zimbabwe** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| **Togo** | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 0 |

### GROUP 5

09.11.96 Morocco-Sierra Leone 4-0
10.11.96 Gabon-Ghana 1-1
11.01.97 Sierra Leone-Gabon 1-0
12.01.97 Ghana-Morocco 2-2
05.04.97 Sierra Leone-Ghana 1-1
06.04.97 Gabon-Morocco abandoned
26.04.97 Sierra Leone-Morocco 0-1
27.04.97 Ghana-Gabon 3-0
08.06.97 Gabon-Sierra Leone
08.06.97 Morocco-Ghana
17.08.97 Morocco-Gabon
17.08.97 Ghana-Sierra Leone

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Morocco** | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| **Ghana** | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| **Sierra Leone** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| **Gabon** | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 |

## ASIA

(3 or 4 teams qualify)

### FIRST ROUND

### GROUP 1

16.03.97 Chinese Taipei-Saudi Arabia 0-2
16.03.97 Malaysia-Bangladesh 2-0
18.03.97 Bangladesh-Chinese Taipei 1-3
18.03.97 Malaysia-Saudi Arabia 0-0
20.03.97 Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia 1-4
20.03.97 Malaysia-Chinese Taipei 2-0
27.03.97 Chinese Taipei-Malaysia 0-0
27.03.97 Saudi Arabia-Bangladesh 3-0
29.03.97 Chinese Taipei-Bangladesh 1-2
29.03.97 Saudi Arabia-Malaysia 3-0
31.03.97 Bangladesh-Malaysia 0-1
31.03.97 Saudi Arabia-Chinese Taipei 6-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Saudi Arabia** | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 16 |
| **Malaysia** | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 11 |
| **Chinese Taipei** | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 4 |
| **Bangladesh** | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 3 |

*Saudi Arabia qualify for second round*

### GROUP 2

02.06.97 Syria-Kyrgyzstan
02.06.97 Maldives-Iran
04.06.97 Syria-Maldives
04.06.97 Kyrgyzstan-Iran
06.06.97 Syria-Iran
06.06.97 Kyrgyzstan-Maldives
09.06.97 Iran-Kyrgyzstan
09.06.97 Maldives-Syria
11.06.97 Iran-Maldives
11.06.97 Kyrgyzstan-Syria
15.06.97 Iran-Syria
15.06.97 Maldives-Kyrgyzstan

### GROUP 3

08.04.97 Jordan-United Arab Emirates 0-0
11.04.97 Bahrain-United Arab Emirates 1-2
14.04.97 Bahrain-Jordan 1-0
19.04.97 Jordan-Bahrain 4-1
22.04.97 United Arab Emirates-Bahrain 3-0
26.04.97 United Arab Emirates-Jordan 2-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **United Arab Emirates** | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 10 |
| **Jordan** | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| **Bahrain** | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 3 |

*UAE qualify for second round*

### GROUP 4

23.03.97 Nepal-Macao 1-1
23.03.97 Oman-Japan 0-1
25.03.97 Macao-Japan 0-10
25.03.97 Oman-Nepal 1-0
27.03.97 Nepal-Japan 0-6
27.03.97 Oman-Macao 4-0
22.06.97 Japan-Macao
22.06.97 Nepal-Oman
25.06.97 Japan-Nepal
25.06.97 Macao-Oman
28.06.97 Japan-Oman
28.06.97 Macao-Nepal

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Japan** | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 9 |
| **Oman** | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| **Nepal** | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| **Macao** | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 1 |

### GROUP 5

06.04.97 Indonesia-Cambodia 8-0
13.04.97 Indonesia-Yemen 0-0
20.04.97 Cambodia-Yemen 0-1
27.04.97 Cambodia-Indonesia 1-1
09.05.97 Yemen-Uzbekistan
16.05.97 Yemen-Cambodia
25.05.97 Uzbekistan-Cambodia
01.06.97 Indonesia-Uzbekistan
13.06.97 Yemen-Indonesia
20.06.97 Uzbekistan-Indonesia
29.06.97 Cambodia-Uzbekistan
13.07.97 Uzbekistan-Yemen

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Indonesia** | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| **Yemen** | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| **Cambodia** | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| **Uzbekistan** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### GROUP 6

23.02.97 Hong Kong-South Korea 0-2
02.03.97 Thailand-Korea Rep 1-3
09.03.97 Thailand-Hong Kong 2-0
16.03.97 Hong Kong-Thailand 3-2
28.05.97 South Korea-Hong Kong
01.06.97 South Korea-Thailand

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **South Korea** | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| **Thailand** | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| **Hong Kong** | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 |

### GROUP 7

13.04.97 Lebanon-Singapore 1-1
26.04.97 Singapore-Kuwait 0-1
08.05.97 Kuwait-Lebanon
24.05.97 Singapore-Lebanon
05.06.97 Kuwait-Singapore
22.06.97 Lebanon-Kuwait

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Kuwait** | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| **Lebanon** | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Singapore** | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

### GROUP 8

04.05.97 China-Turkmenistan
04.05.97 Tajikistan-Vietnam
11.05.97 Vietnam-China
11.05.97 Turkmenistan-Tajikistan
18.05.97 Vietnam-Turkmenistan
18.05.97 Tajikistan-China
01.06.97 Vietnam-Tajikistan
01.06.97 Turkmenistan-China
08.06.97 China-Vietnam
08.06.97 Tajikistan-Turkmenistan
15.06.97 China-Tajikistan
15.06.97 Turkmenistan-Vietnam

### GROUP 9

11.05.97 Kazakhstan-Pakistan
23.05.97 Pakistan-Iraq
06.06.97 Iraq-Kazakhstan
11.06.97 Pakistan-Kazakhstan
20.06.97 Iraq-Pakistan
29.06.97 Kazakhstan-Iraq

### GROUP 10

20.09.96 Qatar-Sri Lanka 3-0
21.09.96 India-Philippines 2-0
23.09.96 Qatar-Philippines 5-0
24.09.96 Sri Lanka-India 1-1
26.09.96 Philippines-Sri Lanka 0-3
27.09.96 Qatar-India 6-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Qatar** | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 9 |
| **Sri Lanka** | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| **India** | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| **Philippines** | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 0 |

*Qatar qualify for second round*

## CONCACAF

(3 teams qualify)

### FINAL ROUND

*League system, top three qualify*

02.03.97 Mexico-Canada 4-0
02.03.97 Jamaica-USA 0-0
16.03.97 USA-Canada 3-0
16.03.97 Costa Rica-Mexico 3-2
23.03.97 Costa Rica-USA 3-2
06.04.97 Canada-El Salvador 0-0
13.04.97 Mexico-Jamaica 6-0
20.04.97 USA-Mexico 2-2
27.04.97 Canada-Jamaica 0-0
04.05.97 El Salvador-Costa Rica
11.05.97 Costa Rica-Jamaica
18.05.97 Jamaica-El Salvador
01.06.97 Canada-Costa Rica
08.06.97 El Salvador-Mexico
29.06.97 El Salvador-USA
10.08.97 Costa Rica-El Salvador
07.09.97 USA-Costa Rica
07.09.97 Jamaica-Canada
14.09.97 Jamaica-Costa Rica
14.09.97 El Salvador-Canada
03.10.97 USA-Jamaica
05.10.97 Mexico-El Salvador
12.10.97 Canada-Mexico
02.11.97 Mexico-USA
09.11.97 Canada-USA
09.11.97 El Salvador-Jamaica
09.11.97 Mexico-Costa Rica
16.11.97 Jamaica-Mexico
16.11.97 Costa Rica-Canada
16.11.97 USA-El Salvador

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mexico** | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 8 |
| **United States** | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| **Costa Rica** | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| **Jamaica** | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| **Canada** | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 2 |
| **El Salvador** | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

## OCEANIA

(0 or 1 teams qualify)

### SECOND ROUND

### GROUP 1

11.06.97 Australia-Solomon Is
13.06.97 Tahiti-Solomon Is
15.06.97 Australia-Tahiti
17.06.97 Solomon Is-Australia
19.06.97 Solomon Is-Tahiti
21.06.97 Tahiti-Australia

### GROUP 2

31.06.97 Papua NG-New Zealand
07.06.97 Fiji-New Zealand
11.06.97 New Zealand-Papua NG
15.06.97 Fiji-Papua NG
18.06.97 New Zealand-Fiji
21.06.97 Papua NG-Fiji

### THIRD ROUND

Two-leg play-off, winner to play Asian 4th-place team

## SOUTH AMERICA

(5 teams qualify; Brazil qualify as holders)

### ROUND-ROBIN

(Top 4 teams qualify)

24.04.96 Argentina-Bolivia 3-1
24.04.96 Colombia-Paraguay 1-0
24.04.96 Ecuador-Peru 4-1
24.04.96 Venezuela-Uruguay 0-2
02.06.96 Ecuador-Argentina 2-0
02.06.96 Peru-Colombia 1-1
02.06.96 Uruguay-Paraguay 0-2
02.06.96 Venezuela-Chile 1-1
07.07.96 Bolivia-Venezuela 6-1
07.07.96 Chile-Ecuador 4-1
07.07.96 Colombia-Uruguay 3-1
07.07.96 Peru-Argentina 0-0
01.09.96 Argentina-Paraguay 1-1
01.09.96 Bolivia-Peru 0-0
01.09.96 Colombia-Chile 4-1
01.09.96 Ecuador-Venezuela 1-0
08.10.96 Uruguay-Bolivia 1-0
09.10.96 Ecuador-Colombia 0-1
09.10.96 Paraguay-Chile 2-1
09.10.96 Venezuela-Argentina 2-5
10.11.96 Bolivia-Colombia 2-2
10.11.96 Paraguay-Ecuador 1-0
10.11.96 Peru-Venezuela 4-1
12.11.96 Chile-Uruguay 1-0
15.12.96 Argentina-Chile 1-1
15.12.96 Bolivia-Paraguay 0-0
15.12.96 Uruguay-Peru 2-0
15.12.96 Venezuela-Colombia 0-2
12.01.97 Bolivia-Ecuador 2-0
12.01.97 Peru-Chile 2-1
12.01.97 Uruguay-Argentina 0-0
12.01.97 Venezuela-Paraguay 0-2
12.02.97 Bolivia-Chile 1-1
12.02.97 Colombia-Argentina 0-1
12.02.97 Ecuador-Uruguay 4-0
12.02.97 Paraguay-Peru 2-1
02.04.97 Bolivia-Argentina 2-1
02.04.97 Paraguay-Colombia 2-1
02.04.97 Peru-Ecuador 1-1
02.04.97 Uruguay-Venezuela 3-1
30.04.97 Argentina-Ecuador 2-1
30.04.97 Chile-Venezuela 6-0
30.04.97 Colombia-Peru 0-1
30.04.97 Paraguay-Uruguay 3-1
08.06.97 Argentina-Peru
08.06.97 Ecuador-Chile
08.06.97 Uruguay-Colombia
08.06.97 Venezuela-Bolivia
06.07.97 Chile-Colombia
06.07.97 Paraguay-Argentina
06.07.97 Peru-Bolivia
06.07.97 Venezuela-Ecuador
20.07.97 Argentina-Venezuela
20.07.97 Bolivia-Uruguay
20.07.97 Chile-Paraguay
20.07.97 Colombia-Ecuador
20.08.97 Colombia-Bolivia
20.08.97 Ecuador-Paraguay
20.08.97 Uruguay-Chile
20.08.97 Venezuela-Peru
10.09.97 Chile-Argentina
10.09.97 Colombia-Venezuela
10.09.97 Paraguay-Bolivia
10.09.97 Peru-Uruguay
12.10.97 Argentina-Uruguay
12.10.97 Chile-Peru
12.10.97 Ecuador-Bolivia
12.10.97 Paraguay-Venezuela
16.11.97 Argentina-Colombia
16.11.97 Chile-Bolivia
16.11.97 Peru-Paraguay
16.11.97 Uruguay-Ecuador

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Paraguay** | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 23 |
| **Colombia** | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 9 | 17 |
| **Argentina** | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 16 |
| **Bolivia** | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 13 |
| **Ecuador** | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 12 | 13 |
| **Peru** | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| **Uruguay** | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 14 | 13 |
| **Chile** | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 12 |
| **Venezuela** | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 32 | 1 |

## THE FINALS

### GROUP MATCHES

10.06.98 Paris Stade de France (Gp A); Montpellier (A )
11.06.98 Toulouse (B); Bordeaux (B )
12.06.98 Lens (C); Marseille (D); Montpellier (C)
13.06.98 Paris Stade de France (E); Lyon (E) Nantes (D)
14.06.98 Lens (H); St Etienne (F); Toulouse (H)
15.06.98 Paris Parc des Princes (F); Lyon (G) Marseille (G)
16.06.98 Bordeaux (A); Nantes (A)
17.06.98 St Etienne (B); Montpellier (B)
18.06.98 Paris Stade de France (C); Toulouse (C)
19.06.98 Paris Parc de Princes (D); St Etienne (D)
20.06.98 Marseille (E); Bordeaux (E); Nantes (H)
21.06.98 Paris Parc de Princes (H); Lens (F); Lyon (F)
22.06.98 Montpellier (G); Toulouse (G)
23.06.98 Paris Stade de France (B); St Etienne (A); Marseille (A); Nantes (B)
24.06.98 Lens (D); Lyon (C); Toulouse (D); Bordeaux (C)
25.06.98 Paris Parc des Princes (E); Montpellier (F); Nantes (F); St Etienne (E)
26.06.98 Paris Stade de France (G); Lens (G); Lyon (H); Bordeaux (H)

### 2ND ROUND

27.06.98 Paris Parc des Princes; Marseille
28.06.98 Paris Stade de France; Lens
29.06.98 Montpellier; Toulouse
30.06.98 St Etienne; Bordeaux

### QUARTER-FINALS

03.07.98 Paris Stade de France; Nantes
04.07.98 Lyon; Marseille

### SEMI-FINALS

07.07.98 Marseille
08.07.98 Paris Stade de France

### 3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

11.07.98 Paris Parc des Princes

### FINAL

12.07.98 Paris Stade de France

# The Chiller!

## *Four-match ban for unruly keeper as FIFA punish South American brawlers*

**International incident . . . Tino Asprilla and Jose Luis Chilavert in confrontation**

PARAGUAY goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert – South America's Footballer of the Year – can go back to concentrating on his club career with Argentina's Velez Sarsfield.

His country will have to play their next four World Cup ties without him after FIFA's disciplinary bosses cracked down in the wake of World Cup mayhem in South America.

FIFA also imposed three-match bans on Colombian forward Victor Aristizabal and Argentina keeper Ignacio Gonzalez and team-mate Gustavo Zapata and ordered fines totalling £85,000 for incidents surrounding the April 2 matches between Paraguay and Colombia in Asuncion and Argentina and Bolivia in La Paz.

Colombia's Newcastle striker Faustino Asprilla incurred a two-match ban and a fine of £1,500, while Argentinian defender Nelson Vivas received a one-game suspension.

"I get the impression that everybody has been dealt with equally," said Argentina Federation and FIFA vice president Julio Grondona. He claimed that the punishments were "logical and correct", adding: "There have been no privileges for anybody."

Not everyone agreed. Colombia general manager Gustavo Moreno said: "FIFA was too generous to Chilavert, who was to blame for everything. We came out all right, though. We thought Asprilla and Aristizabal would get longer bans."

Midfielder Harold Lozano said: "Chilavert should have been suspended for life. He's always causing trouble. He's a bad advert for the game."

The sanctions took immediate effect, which meant that the players concerned missed the latest round of matches.

Chilavert and Asprilla were punished for a fight which escalated into a 10-minute brawl during the second half of Paraguay's 2-1 victory over Colombia – a result that lifted Paraguay to the top of the South American qualifying table.

Colombia complained that Chilavert had committed several fouls that deserved a caution, while Chilavert argued that the Colombians were provocative throughout.

When Chilavert brought down Asprilla in the second half and conceded a penalty, the two became involved in a scuffle and were both shown the red card. Asprilla went to the Colombian bench instead of the dressing room, and as Chilavert walked past the two exchanged words and the Paraguayan spat at Asprilla. Aristizabal reacted by attacking Chilavert and a brawl involving both benches ensued.

The Colombian federation was given a warning because of Asprilla's remaining on the bench after he had been shown the red card.

In La Paz, Argentina finished with only nine players in a 2-1 defeat. Zapata and Vivas were sent off midway through the second half, both for fouls. Zapata received an additional punishment for jabbing a Bolivian player in the face in an attempt to provoke him into getting sent off as well.

As for goalkeeper Gonzalez, he was not punished by the referee during the game but TV caught him butting a Bolivian, off the ball.

Remarkably, those incidents were only a prelude to the major altercation that occurred with two minutes remaining when the ball was kicked over the touchline near the Bolivian bench. Argentinian striker Julio Cruz went to retrieve the ball and, according to the Bolivian players, shouted insults at them. He was duly attacked by Jose Manuel Trujillo, the Bolivian equipment manager and bus driver, who leaped from the bench with fists flying. Other players, coaches and staff joined in and Cruz was ultimately carried away on a stretcher.

Trujillo was banned for life from any FIFA-related event and the Bolivian federation were fined £40,000 for security failures. The Argentine federation were ordered to pay £22,000 for their misbehaviour.

*Rino Landa*

## Paraguay six clear

THE LATEST round of World Cup qualifiers ended with Paraguay six points clear at the top, after they had beaten Uruguay 3-1 at home and Colombia had surprisingly lost 1-0, also at home, to Peru.

Paraguay have 23 points from 10 games – the last nine unbeaten – and Colombia have 17.

Argentina moved up to third, on 16 points, by defeating Ecuador 2-1 in Buenos Aires. Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru are on 13 points, and Chile have 12 after beating Venezuela 6-0, with Ivan Zamorano scoring five.

The top four nations accompany holders Brazil to the finals next year.

## Germans advance

IT'S LOOKING good in the World Cup's European qualifying zone for four of the game's major powers.

Germany, Italy, Holland and England all won in the latest round of matches to maintain hopes of reaching next year's finals in France.

The only one of Europe's big five not to win on a busy night of 19 qualifying matches around the continent were Spain, who were held to a 1-1 draw in Belgrade by a Yugoslavia side fast regaining their former prowess.

European champions Germany, who have been criticised for some moderate performances, claimed an important 2-0 Group Nine victory over Ukraine with second-half goals from Oliver Bierhoff and Mario Basler. That pushed Germany up to within one point of Ukraine and two clear of Portugal.

Italy stayed four points ahead of England in Group Two with a comfortable 3-0 home win over Poland. Roberto Di Matteo, Paolo Maldini and the recalled Roberto Baggio, with a brilliant solo, were on target in Naples to take the 1994 World Cup runners-up to 16 points from six games.

England stayed on their tails on 12 points and a match in hand but they made hard work of beating stubborn Georgia 2-0 at Wembley.

Teddy Sheringham's first-half header proved decisive in a far from impressive showing. Alan Shearer blasted home the second with the final kick of the game after Sheringham laid a free-kick back into his path following a Georgia backpass to the goalkeeper.

Holland thrashed San Marino 6-0 to stay in control of Group Seven. Two goals by Dennis Bergkamp – who travelled to the match from London by road – and one each for Aron Winter, Pierre Van Hooijdonk, Frank de Boer and John Bosman moved Holland to 15 points, three clear of Belgium.

The Belgians earned a vital 3-1 win in Turkey thanks to a first-half hat-trick by Brazilian-born Luis Olivera. Oktay Derelioglu replied for the Turks, also in the first half.

Romania all but ensured their place in next year's finals with a 1-0 home win over the Republic of Ireland in Group Eight. Adrian Ilie got the only goal after 32 minutes but keeper Bogdan Stelea saved a Roy Keane penalty three minutes after the break. Romania have a maximum 18 points from six games, eight clear of Macedonia, with Ireland down to fourth on seven points.

Lithuania beat Liechtenstein 2-0 away to stay in the hunt in third place in Group Eight, on nine points. Scotland conceded their first goals in seven qualifying matches when Sweden won their Group Four clash 2-1 in Gothenburg. Kennet Andersson volleyed Sweden into a deserved lead two minutes before half-time and added the second in the 63rd minute.

Scotland, who replied through Kevin Gallacher late on, still top the group on 14 points with Austria, who beat Estonia 2-0, second on 10 and Sweden third on nine.

Fernando Hierro's 19th-minute penalty looked to have given Spain victory in Belgrade only for Predrag Mijatovic, Hierro's Real Madrid team-mate, to equalise with another spot kick. Spain top Group Six with 17 points, one ahead of Yugoslavia.

Group One was blown open as leaders Greece lost 1-0 at home to Croatia and Denmark thrashed Slovenia 4-0.

Two goals by Allan Nielsen and one each for Per Pedersen and Brian Laudrup had Denmark's result settled within an hour and sent the 1992 European champions to the top of the group on 10 points.

Greece are trailing on goal difference, with Croatia third on nine points thanks to Davor Suker's 74th-minute winner in Salonika.

*Jonathan Shallard*

# Statto's dream box

Wright on time...Killie's Cup hero

## Scotland

THIS YEAR's Scottish Cup Final, at Ibrox on May 24, features the unlikely pairing of Kilmarnock and First Division Falkirk. This has proved to be a football statistician's dream, as record books are examined in detail for the many historical quirks which arise from a meeting of two unfashionable and provincial sides.

It is 40 years since the final featured two clubs from outside Scotland's four main cities and, believe it or not, the participants then were Falkirk and Kilmarnock. The Bairns beat Killie in a replay on that occasion, and have failed to reach a final since. Before that, the last all-provincial final took place in 1938, when Kilmarnock lost to Second Division East Fife, also at the second attempt.

They have not won the trophy since 1929 and both sets of supporters have been searching for omens this year, hoping for some kind of historic repetition.

The meeting is all the more intriguing in the light of Kilmarnock's decision to sack Alex Totten earlier in the season. Totten regained employment as, you've guessed it, manager of Falkirk.

Both sides had to fight through replayed semi-finals, Kilmarnock beating Dundee United with a Paul Wright goal four minutes from time and Falkirk hanging on to defeat a beleaguered Celtic side thanks to an early goal from Paul McGrillen.

The final looks to be potentially the most competitive for many years, and has generated unprecedented interest throughout the country.

On the League front, Rangers strolled to their long-awaited ninth successive title and said goodbye to captain Richard Gough. He is going to spend the twilight years of his career in the USA, where he will join former team-mate Maurice Johnston in Major League Soccer at Kansas City Wiz.

Gough, signed by Graeme Souness from Tottenham in 1987, has been the inspirational force behind his team's record-equalling run of championship victories and will prove difficult to replace, even allowing for the spending power available to manager Walter Smith.

Raith Rovers, who have had an horrendous season, drop out of the Premier Division. Only 18 months ago, under former Northern Ireland international Jimmy Nicholl, they were carrying Scotland's banner into Europe, and giving the aristocrats of Bayern Munich a measure of discomfort in the process.

That particular side disintegrated and three managers have come and gone in the past nine months, the season ending in the acrimonious sacking of Iain Munro.

Raith are replaced by St Johnstone, who have led the First Division almost since the season began. Their success is a tribute to the efforts of Paul Sturrock, who has battled back from stress-related illness to bring an enviable degree of discipline and organisation into the Perth set-up.

*Alan Fairley*

## Wales

### Same-again Barry

BARRY TOWN are the champions for the second successive season, clinching the title with a 3-0 win over nearest rivals Inter CableTel of Cardiff.

The only professional side in the League, Barry owe their success not only to their fitness and teamwork, but also to striker Tony Bird who, with 36 goals, is Europe's top scorer.

They are also in the final of the Cup, having beaten Conwy United 1-0 in extra time with a goal from former Cardiff City striker Cohen Griffith.

The Gilbert League Cup Final will also feature Barry Town, this time against Bangor City, the 1993 and 1994 champions who have slumped to a mid-table berth this season.

Inter CabelTel will undertake their second European venture when they represent Wales in the UEFA Cup next season, with ex-Scotland and Everton goalkeeper George Wood in charge.

The InterToto Cup place will be decided on the final day of the campaign, with Caernafon Town needing four more points to pip Ebbw Vale.

The relegation issues have already been decided. Briton Ferry Athletic and Holywell Town will go down with Ton Petre, who have announced their resignation from the League on financial grounds.

Haverfordwest County and Rhayader Town will replace the two bottom teams.

*Mel ap Ior Thomas*

# Pro-file Paolo Di Canio

**Club** Celtic
**Country** Italy
**Born** July 9, 1968, in Rome
**Previous clubs** Ternana, Lazio, Juventus, Napoli, Milan
**Honours** UEFA Cup 1993 (with Juventus); European Supercup 1995 (with Milan); Italian Championship 1996 (with Milan)

**PAOLO DI CANIO is nothing if not an optimist. "I want to stay and help Celtic to win the treble next season," he says.**

**Despite having enjoyed immense personal success and fulfilment since joining Celtic from Milan last summer, topped off by his election as Players' Player of the Year, he has been unable to transform his club's ailing fortunes.**

**For the second season in succession they have finished without a trophy, and have surrendered a share in the club record of nine championships in a row, achieved during the era of the great Jock Stein, to bitter rivals Rangers.**

**For Di Canio to aim for a clean sweep of domestic trophies next season may appear misguided, but such sentiments merely reflect the insurmountable passion the player holds for his club, something clearly absent from some other big-money foreign signings.**

**"I am very passionate about my football," says Di Canio, "and the Celtic supporters are also very passionate. This is why I enjoy playing for the club so much."**

**The former Lazio, Juventus and Milan player has experienced a remarkable season, emerging as by far the most talented to have worn the Celtic jersey for many years and gaining an acceptance from supporters which has been unprecedented for an 'outsider'. Such acceptance has emanated from the commitment apparent every time he plays – and from the exceptional level of skill and vision he possesses.**

**Confirmation of these qualities comes from no less an observer than long-serving club captain Paul McStay, out injured for a large part of the season. "My spirits were kept intact by Paolo's performances for the team," says McStay. "It's been a joy to watch such a talented performer play for Celtic."**

**McStay's sentiments were echoed by former England international Andy Gray, now with Falkirk, who saw Di Canio in action over two Scottish Cup semi-final ties between the teams.**

**"He's brilliant," said Gray. "He should be playing at a higher level but, while I'm sure he'd be successful in the English Premiership, he wouldn't be worshipped every week by 50,000 fans the way he is up here."**

**Di Canio's popularity reached an all-time high when he wore a pair of outrageous gold-coloured boots for Celtic's televised encounter with Aberdeen, and scored a late winner. His timing proved impeccable, for the game coincided with a local radio station's effort to raise cash for children's charities. Di Canio donated his boots to the appeal and the auction that followed raised a total of £60,000.**

**But Di Canio, now 28 years old, has known the downside of football, too. Since arriving in Scotland, he has been ordered off twice and been plagued with accusations of diving in an attempt to con referees.**

**The Italian has three years of his contract to run, but after the Scottish Cup semi-final defeat by Falkirk he hinted at an unspecified problem with his current terms. Celtic supporters regard him as the foundation stone around which any challenge to Rangers must be built, and they will be hoping that, whatever problem has been identified, club chairman Fergus McCann will do everything in his power to rectify the position.**

**No player is bigger than the club, but the feeling is that Di Canio's influence is of such crucial importance that every effort must be made to ensure his continued presence at Parkhead.**

*Alan Fairley*

# If Eric wins, he loses

## *Gerets in a Champions League dilemma*

### Belgium

PITY Eric Gerets. The harder he pushes Lierse in pursuit of their first title in 37 years, the less chance of leading a club into next season's Champions League.

With Belgium not among those nations permitted to field two teams in UEFA's top club competition, Gerets will be involved only if Club Brugge retain their title – as he is soon to replace Hugo Broos in Bruges.

Publicly at least, Gerets is putting on a brave face: "Once you have taken a choice you must have no regrets," he says.

Razor-sharp...Gerets

Gerets sets high standards. A run of 14 wins and three draws since November has enabled Lierse, based in the small commuter town of Lier, south of Antwerp, to take the League by storm.

The sequence, including a 4-2 victory at Bruges and a 5-1 thrashing of Anderlecht, provided the perfect reply to directors who had told the 42-year-old they wanted an improvement on the fifth-place finishes of the previous two seasons.

Standard Liege, Bayern Munich and Belgium benefited from his razor-sharp tackling as a player, and showing similar alacrity, he obliged his directors. "They asked me to do a better job than in the past. So I changed everything – the spirit, the system and lots of players."

Veteran defender Eddy Snelders went to Ekeren but has since retired. Gerets bought Eric Van Meir from Charleroi to slot in as libero with such success he is the club's top scorer!

"His goals have come from headers, shots, free-kicks," says Gerets. "But the main difference now is that when we have possession, the libero plays in front of the defence instead of behind it. That gives us an extra man in midfield."

There have been other significant scoring contributions from defender Bart de Roover and big target man Bob Peeters. Further goals, more specifically three in a remarkable 5-4 win at Gent, came from Pole Andrzej Rudy, who filled the midfield vacancy created by last summer's departure of captain and Norwegian international Kjetil Rekdal, to Rennes.

But Gerets will be gone when Lierse come to tackle their greatest problem. With a meagre capacity of 14,000, and only 4,500 seats, the homely Herman Vanderpoorten Stade will be ill-equipped for the crowds wanting to watch big European matches. The proposed move to a new stadium cannot come quickly enough.

*Nicholas Harling*

### Austria

## Two tight at the top

THE THRILLING fight at the top of the First Division has turned into a duel between record champions Rapid Vienna and the remodelled and vastly improved Austria Salzburg, who are separated only by goal difference.

For a time, it looked as if Rapid would be crowned unopposed but they faltered and were sensationally deposed as leaders after losing to rock-bottom SV Ried 3-0.

The turning point in the match came with the dismissal of Rapid's international goalkeeper Michael Konsel for a professional foul. The champions had already used their three substitutes and were forced to play for the last quarter of an hour with Bulgarian international sweeper Trifon Ivanov in goal.

Salzburg benefited from Rapid's mishap and took over at the top, but the Viennese recovered quickly and beat the Salzburger 2-0. Rapid's emergency keeper Raimund Hedl was the hero, while Salzburg's new Ukrainian, Oleg Suslov, was the villain, conceding an easy goal.

Rapid remained inconsistent, however, for they slumped to a 2-0 home defeat by Sturm Graz and again slipped behind Salzburg. Sturm are delighted with German midfielder Jens Dowe, who arrived from Hamburg via Wolverhampton Wanderers and has now developed into a most dangerous attacker.

Graz confirmed their improved form by tripping up Salzburg as well, drawing 0-0.

But the days of the former Roma striker, Giuseppe Giannini, in Graz look numbered. Two goals in 26 matches from the most expensive player in the Austrian League is too little a return on his exorbitant salary.

*Arthur Rotmil*

### Switzerland

## A dreadful blow to the game

NO OTHER event in modern times has had such a devastating effect on Swiss football as the disclosure that highly respected FIFA referee Kurt Rothlisberger has been charged with trying to bribe a fellow official before two matches.

Rothlisberger was suspended for life by FIFA, but in the light of further developments, the wording was changed to "until further notice". Swiss officials fear other cases may be uncovered.

Apparently, the amounts set as bribes involved some £50,000 per match. The media are calling it the biggest refereeing scandal in the history of Swiss football, and even several recent successes recorded by the national side are now being questioned.

Swiss football will take a long time to recover from this shabby affair, while some of its match officials might be forever tainted with suspicion.

Meanwhile, the national side continues to be rebuilt by Rolf Fringer. The era of Roy Hodgson and Artur Jorge has ended, with 12 of the 22 players who took part in Euro 96 dropped. The new keeper is Stephan Lehmann, of Sion, who not long ago wanted to retire from international football because he was tired of being a standby.

On the domestic front, Sion have taken over the leadership from Neuchatel and are setting a hot pace. Italian coach Alberto Bigon is delighted, not least because his name is at last being mentioned in his native country where managers earn much more, and he obviously doesn't intend to stay put in Switzerland. But he categorically denies that. He also says Sion will "definitely win the double".

By contrast, there is trouble brewing at FC Basel, who had signed Germans Franco Foda and Markus Schupp, but slumped to bottom of the championship pool. General manager Heinz Hermann, who took over from Karl Engel, has been released and replaced by a German, Jorg Berger.

*Arthur Rotmil*

### Holland

## Seedorf on the spot

THE LACK of a professional attitude cost Holland dearly when their unbeaten run was ended by Turkey's 1-0 win in Bursa.

The Dutch were not inspired, but had a great chance to earn a draw when winning a penalty seven minutes from time.

Clarence Seedorf, who missed from the spot in the Euro 96 quarter-final against France, picked up the ball – and missed again, while a nation watching its TV sets looked on in disbelief.

Coach Guus Hiddink was furious. He said he had selected Wim Jonk or Frank de Boer to take penalties.

New era...Switzerland goalkeeper Stephane Lehmann

You may as well be talking double Dutch to Seedorf when it comes to penalties

Hiddink said: "Considering history and his performance today, Seedorf was the last person to take the kick."

Seedorf said he knew nothing of the arrangement, and had felt sure of his ability to score.

The miss and the team's generally mediocre performance have tempered the optimism surrounding their World Cup prospects, and Ajax did little to raise spirits when crashing 6-2 on aggregate to Juventus in the European Cup semi-finals.

It was the club's fourth defeat by Juve in a year, and ended Barcelona-bound coach Louis Van Gaal's hopes of saying farewell to Amsterdam with a trophy.

Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven are head to head in the chase for the League title, with the latter just edging ahead.

Their cause has been helped recently by Gilles de Bilde, who scored in his first two games back from suspension.

Both clubs will go into the Champions League next season, and can thank Ajax for doing so well in recent years, thereby earning Holland a second place under the UEFA coefficient ruling.

Gerald Sibon, whose header put Roda JC into the Cup final against Heerenveen, has signed a five-year contract with Ajax.

Wim Rijsbergen is to take charge at Groningen when his contract with NAC Breda expires in June.

*Klaas-Jan Droppert*

### Rep of Ireland

## TV tests for Derry

DUBLIN stages its first international club tournament in July when four teams will compete at Lansdowne Road in an event organised for European TV audiences.

Celtic, Newcastle, PSV Eindhoven and Derry City, the new FAI National League champions, will do battle from July 16-17.

The Scottish club will be in Dublin this month, as well, for the Packie Bonner testimonial. They will play a Republic of Ireland XI at Lansdowne Road on May 18 in a benefit game for the goalkeeper, who has played all his club football at Celtic.

Derry won the Premier League with 10 points to spare over Bohemians, who secured the UEFA Cup spot.

Shelbourne are the FAI's Cup-winners Cup representatives, with Cork City in the Intertoto Cup for the first time.

Kilkenny City, the First Division champions, will play in the Premier next season for the first time since they joined the League in 1985. Drogheda United also go up, and the third spot will be decided in a relegation/promotion play-off between Dundalk and Waterford.

Home Farm/Everton and Bray Wanderers go down. Ironically, Bray's relegation was confirmed on the night they switched on their new floodlights.

Despite relegation, Home Farm/Everton are doing a great trade in replica jerseys. Everton fans are taking the boat to Dublin to buy the jerseys – which have Everton emblazoned across the chest – since they are considered collectors' items. At Goodison Park, supporters have to buy shirts with the logo of outgoing sponsors Danka.

The FAI have refused a request from Wimbledon for a meeting to discuss his club's proposed move to Dublin. "There is nothing to discuss," according to FAI chief executive Bernard O'Byrne.

*Sean Creedon*

## Pro-file Robert Spehar

**Club** Brugge
**Country** Croatia
**Born** May 13, 1970, in Zagreb
**Previous clubs** NK Zagreb, NK Osijek
**International debut** October 1992, v Mexico
**International caps** 6 (0 goals)
**Honours** Belgian League 1996; Belgian Cup 1996

**CLUB BRUGGE hitman Robert Spehar could soon be putting his best foot forward for a Golden Shoe measuring session.**

**Ronaldo, Jardel and Shearer beware. With 22 goals from 29 Belgian championship fixtures, Spehar is very much in contention for the glittering item of footwear awarded annually to the leading marksman in European club football.**

**Spehar, a 26-year-old from Croatia, is the man largely responsible for keeping Club Brugge in the hunt for a second consecutive national title. He seems to have mastered every dimension of the scorer's art: nerveless, close-quarters finishing, headers and the spectacular long-range howitzer.**

**A good example of his ability to strike a ball from distance came in the 8-2 home thumping of Lokeren back in February. During that Sunday afternoon stroll, he was on the score-sheet four times, but it was his 40-yard special that really illuminated the weekend. Belgian Goal of the Season material without a shadow of doubt.**

**There must be something in the air that agrees with Club's Croat attackers. A year ago, Mario Stanic was at the heart of their title-winning campaign, pitching in with 20 goals to top the country's scoring lists.**

**After several months of transfer speculation, Stanic finally moved on to Parma last November and it was left to compatriot Spehar to take up the striking slack. Not that he has always been flavour of the month in Belgium. He was leading scorer in the 1994-95 Croat championship with 25 goals for NK Osijek, but was lured away shortly afterwards by Club, only to spend a large proportion of his first season on the fringes.**

**Coach Hugo Broos justified his apparent lack of faith in Spehar by claiming that he lacked commitment. Not surprisingly, Spehar seethed with hurt pride. Indeed, the bad blood was still in evidence early this season.**

**After the first-round UEFA Cup victory over Lyngby, of Denmark, the player decided to speak out. "Broos hates me," he wailed. "He has never shown me any confidence. Other players here can put in a string of poor performances and not run any risk of losing their place. I don't have this luxury."**

**Broos, assuming diplomatic mode, attempted to calm the situation. "Robert and I will resolve this matter in private. I continue to believe he will come of age as a player this season. He is going to be one of the revelations of the Belgian League."**

**And so it has proved. With the path to a regular spot in the starting line-up opened up by Stanic's sale, Spehar has not stopped scoring since, and Broos – who will be leaving to take charge of Mouscron in the summer – certainly is not complaining.**

**A truce has been declared and should Spehar-inspired Club Brugge go on to retain their title, it will have proved the perfect peace settlement.**

*Nick Bidwell*

# Sa Pinto is kept waiting

## *Sporting ace faces ban over Jorge fight*

### Portugal

YET ANOTHER scandal affecting Portuguese soccer is awaiting settlement – and judging by events so far, the wait could be a lengthy one.

It concerns the Sporting Lisbon and Portugal striker (an apt title) Sa Pinto, and the national team's coach, Artur Jorge.

Sa Pinto, left out of the team to travel to Belfast for a World Cup qualifying game against Northern Ireland, reacted in an unusual way.

He left Sporting's ground and drove to the National Stadium, 20 minutes away. There he confronted Jorge, struck him several times, and then kicked him.

As he got back into his car, assistant coach Rui Aguas remonstrated with him, and he too was attacked before another player, Oceano, managed to get Sa Pinto away from the scene.

I know where you live, Jorge!

Sa Pinto, once an apprentice at Porto, later played for Salgueiros before joining Sporting in 1994. He is well known for his patriotic views, but his playing record is not outstanding: in 18 international appearances he has scored only once.

The Football League suspended the player after the incident, but the Football Association, as the national ruling body, want to take over the handling of the case, believing that they, and only they, have the power to do so.

What this means for Sa Pinto is not clear: rumour says that he may not play again.

Meantime, Sporting claim his absence from their team has prevented them from making a stronger challenge to Porto for the title, and they are demanding to be indemnified to the tune of at least £5million. And so it drags on.

On the football front, the team could only draw in Belfast and – with due respect to the Irish players and management – this was a victory thrown away. The team's performance made watchers such as myself wonder whether the special class of player once so abundant in Portugal will ever be seen again.

Many of them are paid between £20,000 and £30,000 a week, the sort of money many people earn in two years or more. What, we wonder, do they do to earn it?

*Alberto da Silva*

### Turkey

## Happy ending for the city with two names

THE TEAM from the city with two names won their first major trophy by taking the Turkish Cup on a 2-1 aggregate.

Izmit, not to be confused with Izmir, is the title of the city, but the club's name, Kocaelispor, is so widely used in Turkey that people often say "Kocaeli" when referring to the place.

After a 1-1 draw in the first leg against Trabzonspor, Kocaeli won the return by the only goal, scored by Nuri Kolak four minutes from the end.

Their success was greeted with great rejoicing, and German coach Holger Osiek, who took over earlier this season, is in the running for Manager of the Year.

A Trabzon fan was killed in a road crash on his way home from the game. Coach Yalmaz Vural and Trabzon captain Ogun Tamizkanoglu, who represented the club at the funeral, were attacked by fans who blamed them, in part, for the Cup defeat.

"Sooner or later we'll get rid of people like these," said club chairman Mehmet Ali Yalmaz. "We lost a game but didn't deserve a beating."

Galatasaray were five points ahead of Besiktas' confidence was boosted by the defeats of Gaziantep (5-1) and Altay (4-0), but they were held 1-1 in the crunch clash with Galatasaray. Besiktas led for most of the game before Hagi scored a late penalty.

Fenerbahce and Trabzonspor, a long way behind the top two, met in Trabzon, where the home team led 4-0 at half-time but were hanging on at the end to win 4-3.

*Hasan Cemali*

### Greece

## Skoda put skids under champions

WHEN you sell 2,443 tickets for a stadium seating 75,000, it spells trouble.

So it is for defending Greek champions Panathinaikos, who lost 2-1 at the Olympic Stadium to struggling Skoda Xanthi.

It was the seventh successive League match without a victory for Panathinaikos, now in serious danger of missing out on European competition next season.

Coach Velimir Zajec said: "There are no words available to explain our loss. After a good showing in the League Cup, we couldn't even beat a team struggling to survive. Now things are difficult for us and we must fight hard to win a UEFA spot."

To add insult to injury, Panathinaikos lost the Cup final to AEK Athens on penalties after a 0-0 draw at the Karaiskaki Stadium in Piraeus. Although playing well, Panathinaikos could not stop AEK from retaining the trophy – their 10th success in the competition.

Panathinaikos started the season with Argentinian coach Juan Ramon Rocha, but he was fired. Now, club owner George Vardinoyannis has filed a lawsuit against Rocha for £30,000, claiming he owes Avinoil (owned by Vardinoyannis) for petrol supplied to Rocha's filling station.

Olympiakos Piraeus, meanwhile, kept the lead in the table with four matches left after a hard-earned 0-0 draw at PAOK Salonica before a sellout crowd of 38,000. Olympiakos have 72 points, a six-point advantage over AEK, who lost the chance to make ground with a 1-1 draw at Verria.

Olympiakos complained about PAOK fans, who woke them up at 3am by shouting slogans outside their hotel.

Another big club in crisis, Aris Salonica, won away for the first time this term, 3-0 at Kastoria, but still face the drop.

The national team's World Cup prospects took a knock when they lost 1-0 at home to Croatia.

*Lou Economopoulos*

### Malta

## Power handed back to the Citizens

VALLETTA have finally made it back to the top of the tree, by winning their 15th championship title after a five-year gap.

Their 3-1 win over Pieta meant the Citizens were crowned with one game left.

It is ample reward for a highly-gifted side who, for the past five years, have always been in contention, yet failed.

This term, they came back in the latter stages to mount a salvage operation which proved successful, beginning with the 3-1 win over Birkirkara, the then leaders.

Birkirkara began losing ground, and Valletta went from strength to strength.

A fine blend of collective teamwork allied to the guidance of coach Edward Darmanin and chairman Joe Caruana Curran was the main factor behind Valletta's success.

"It's just great," remarked jubilant Serbian Danilo Doncic, who scored 30 goals – quite a feat in Maltese football.

Doncic may well be on his way to a big European club next season, though he is still bound by a contract with Valletta. "I've had offers from three clubs abroad," he confirmed.

Malta's World Cup campaign went from bad to disastrous when they were beaten 2-1 at home by the Faroe Islands, the first ever World Cup victory for the Faroes and Malta's seventh consecutive defeat.

*Domenico Aquilina*

### Israel

## Hapoel fans in shock after death of player

THE DEATH of 23-year-old Wahib Jbara during a National League match sent shockwaves through the country.

He was playing for Hapoel Taiba against Tel Aviv's Bnei Yehuda when he collapsed.

Supporters at the ground, and others viewing televised highlights, saw the frantic efforts of doctors and paramedics to resuscitate him. He was pronounced dead on the way to hospital.

A post-mortem confirmed he had a genetic heart condition, and death was due to a heart attack.

Hapoel Taiba officials announced the team would in future be known as Hapoel Wahib Taiba, in tribute to the player.

A medical committee appointed to investigate the death reported Jbara had been diagnosed as having a heart problem in 1995 and that additional tests ought to have been carried out, but were not. Had such tests proved positive, Jbara would have been forced to quit the game.

The committee criticised the Israel FA's failure to take sufficient steps to verify the accuracy of medical information filed by clubs each season.

Two consecutive defeats for runaway leaders Betar Jerusalem had the soothsayers predicting they would be caught by Hapoel Beersheba or Hapoel Petah Tikva before the end of the season. But Betar still had a seven-point lead with four matches left and have a chance of their first-ever double, having reached the semi-final of the State Cup.

*Derek Fattal*

### Albania

## Friendship found amid the anarchy

CLUBS from four regions of Albania took part in a mini-tournament – the Friendship Cup – to symbolise friendship after the outbreak of anarchy that has devastated the country.

Plans are under way to restart the national soccer programme, suspended in January as a result of the violence that has led to more than 300 deaths.

Fans stood for a minute's silence before the three Friendship Cup games, which involved FK Tirana, Besa from the Kavaja region, Apollonia from the southern town of Fieri, and Vllaznia from Shkodra in the north.

*Gezim Nushi*

Double strike...Brann's Tor Andre Flo

### Norway

## It's all Brann in the opening stages

BRANN BERGEN got off to a marvellous start when the new season began.

After holding defending champions Rosenborg to a draw in Trondheim, they beat Bodo/Glimt at home – Mons Ivar Mjelde hitting three – and Stromsgodset away, scoring four times in the second half.

Tore Andre Flo scored twice and outshone elder brother Jostein, who was in the Stromsgodset side.

Several clubs are chasing Tore Andre, who already has turned down a move to Everton. He says humbly: "I'll leave in the summer, if anybody wants me."

In contrast to Brann, Rosenborg were without a win after three games, and surprisingly sold midfielder Carl Oskar Fjortoft to Molde. He had done well pre-season but could not get into the Rosenborg team for the opening League games. "A change suits me fine," says Fjortoft, who is just 22, but who has represented his country more than 100 times at various levels.

*Sigurd Odegaard*

### Sweden

## Elfs more like giants

PROMOTED Elfsborg began the new season by becoming the toast of the country with an emotional 3-0 win over the champions, IFK Gothenburg.

A crowd of 16,000 included their most famous fan, the former Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson.

Meanwhile, Djungskile, also promoted and led by the former Degerfors star Ulf Ottosson, recently on loan at Norwich, lost 3-0 at Orebro.

Gothenburg's rather cautious transfer policy has been criticised by the local media. Their reluctance to sign big names hardly boosts their ambitions in the Champions League.

IFK were thought to have lined up a bid for the Roma veteran Jonas Thern, but he chose Rangers instead.

A recent survey revealed quite a few players believe there are illegal payments within the Swedish game. This is always a delicate matter and big clubs such as Gothenburg forbid their players to answer questions on the issue.

IFK's Stefan Pettersson was ranked the ideal team-mate in a recent poll, while more than 70 per cent of players retain faith in national coach Tommy Svensson.

Anders Limpar's contract at Birmingham has been cancelled and he is expected to return home, probably to AIK.

Limpar, now 31, says he has a better chance of returning to the national team by playing at home rather than in the First Division in England

*Pentti Hietanen*

### Finland

## All smiles for Paatelainen

NEARLY ALL the first round of the new Finnish season was postponed because the grounds were either too soft or under snow.

The only game that went ahead was that between championship favourites HJK and Inter Turku in Helsinki. The situation did not do any good for the League's already tarnished image. While ice-hockey continues to prosper, football seems rooted firmly in second place.

One Finn is happy. Bolton's hefty striker, Mixu Paatelainen, had a superb week, scoring on his return to national duty in the 2-1 win over Azerbaijan in Baku, then celebrating Bolton's promotion back to the Premier League with more than a month to spare.

He says: "I feel as good at 29 as at any time in my career, and I intend to keep playing in Britain."

The most northerly Finnish club, Rovaniemi, will be parading three Zambian players, with Mordon Malitoli joining Zeddy Zaileti and Emmanuel Siwale.

FF Jaro have signed Estonian midfielder Toomas Kallaste from FC Flora.

### Iceland

## PLayers keeping busy, for a start

TRAVEL is the name of the game for several of Iceland's top clubs as the 1997 season gets under way.

Players are contemplating a programme which would bring a tear to the eye of the most seasoned professional, because between May 19 and June 3 the 10 First Division teams face a punishing opening schedule of five matches, a game every three or four days.

Preparations for this tough start have had many clubs on the move. While some headed for the Mediterranean and pre-season training camps, new coach Ivan Golac led reigning champions IA on a trans-European safari of impressive proportions, from Dumfries to Dubrovnik.

At the same time, clubs have been playing in the annual local competitions and the League Cup, now in its final stages.

*Rab Christie*

## Pro-file Jon Dahl Tomasson

**Club** Heerenveen (Hol)
**Country** Denmark
**Born** August 29, 1976, in Hvidovre
**Honours** None

**DANISH Dynamite strikes again. Free-scoring Heerenveen starlet Jon Dahl Tomasson is featuring on 'Most Wanted' posters all over Europe at the moment.**

**Like the Laudrup brothers, Jesper Olsen and Flemming Povlsen in days gone by, the 20-year-old Tomasson is the latest in a long line of Danish prodigies to be the object of desire for the cream of continental clubs.**

**Attacking midfielder Tomasson, without doubt, will be making for the departure gate at Dutch side Heerenveen, but where will he end up? Certainly, the rumour mill has been working overtime.**

**Insistent stories foretell a summer move to the considerably larger stage of Ajax, where he would link up with another Danish expatriate, new coach Morten Olsen. Other whispers relate a possible transfer to the Premiership, Bundesliga, Spanish Liga or Serie A. "Spoilt for choice" is the phrase which springs to mind.**

**"Tomasson is a really exciting prospect," says Danish Euro 92 hero John Sivebaek. "The sky is the limit for him. He has bags of natural ability, a positive attitude, and, of course, has the typical scorer's knack of getting on the end of chances and putting the ball in the net.**

**"It's obviously great for him to be in the position where several important European clubs are showing a keen interest. But he has to be careful. It wouldn't be in his best interest to go to a club packed with star names and not be sure of first-team football. At this stage of his development, he needs regular games.**

**"But above all, it's wonderful for Danish football that youngsters like Tomasson are starting to make an impact. He and Per Pedersen [at Blackburn Rovers] are part of an excellent new generation of attackers."**

**There's no question that Heerenveen fans will regret Tomasson's move if and when he goes, having seen him score 14 League goals last season and another 17 this term – he narrowly led PSV's Luc Nilis and John Bosman of Twente in the Dutch scoring charts. Indeed, Tomasson has done much to transform the relatively unfashionable outfit from the northern province of Friesland into a team to be respected.**

**Heerenveen have had only a handful of years' experience in the Dutch First Division. Yet their rawness has not prevented them from making great strides in recent months. Tomasson and his team-mates are enjoying a season which has far exceeded all expectations, pushing for a top-six place, reaching the Dutch Cup Final and causing one of the shocks of the season with a 1-0 League victory at title-chasing PSV – the winner courtesy of Tomasson.**

**On the back of outstanding club displays, Tomasson recently took his first step on the international ladder, called up for the first time by Denmark manager Bo Johansson for the World Cup qualifier in Croatia. The youngster did not take part in his country's valuable 1-1 draw, but a spot in the squad for France 98 looks more than a possibility.**

*Nick Bidwell*

# Boris rings the changes

## Russia

VALENCIA's Valeri Karpine and Celta Vigo's Alexander Mostovoi were the first victims of radical changes in the nation team announced by manager Boris Ignatiev.

Neither were included in the list of probables following Russia's humiliating World Cup draw with Cyprus.

Ignatiev, who had replaced Oleg Romantsev after Russia's failure at Euro 96, selected four young home-based players instead and brought back Vladislav Radimov (Real Zaragoza) and Vladimir Beschastnikh (Racing Santander) for the 3-0 win against Luxembourg.

Mostovoi said that he had expected his dismissal. "Somebody had to be made a scapegoat after what happened in Cyprus." Karpine took it upon himself to announce that he would not play in the national team again.

Casualty...Russia's Alexander Mostovoi

Both claimed that the mild and quiet Ignatiev has no real power and that the team are controlled by the big shots in the Russian Football Federation.

They recalled, for example, that when appointed national manager Ignatiev was officially warned that he had no right to call in Dmitri Kharine, Igor Shalimov and Sergei Kiriakov without the Federation's consent. The three were 'blacklisted' after they allegedly initiated a dispute over cash during the Russians' disappointing Euro 96 campaign.

Rostselmash, who are leading the national League, ahead of 1996 champions Spartak Moscow, finished 11th last year but have improved greatly. They are spearheaded by the tournament's top scorer, Alexander Maslov, named Russia's best striker last season. He has been strangely ignored by Ignatiev.

The 1996 runner-up, Alania Vladikavkaz, lost four games in the first seven. Coach Valeri Gazzayev, who blames referees and an "anti-Alaniya plot in the League" for the team's misfortunes, announced his resignation, which was not accepted.

*Victor Gusev*

## Slovakia

### Confidence on rise

INTEREST in both the World Cup and the First Division mounted as the spring half-season got into its stride.

Qualification for France remains unlikely but perhaps the Slovaks can stay ahead of the Czechs in Group Six. Failure to win in Bratislava on May 21 should signal the end for the visitors.

The Czechs' defeat in Belgrade and the Slovak victory in Malta have raised confidence and coach Jozef Jankech must be happy too that Spartak Trnava and FC Kosice are showing good form. He is convinced the country needs a smaller league and more good teams.

At the moment national champions Slovan are not among them. The off-field squabbles have not gone away, and with eight games left the chances of retaining the title have dipped.

The postponement of the game in distant Humenne against Chemlon did not help, especially as leaders Trnava were winning 3-0 at Inter and FC Kosice 2-0 in Petrzalka. Karol Pecze's Spartak now have a real chance of bringing silverware to Trnava. They missed out on League and Cup last season but the Pecze magic is working again. His team lead Kosice by three points and Slovan by 12.

There should be a new team in the Champions League next term.

The decision to increase the top division to 16 could be up for discussion before the forthcoming elections, in which Jo Venglos is a likely candidate for president.

*Bob Vaughan*

## Bulgaria

### Bonev goes for bonus goals

THERE is World Cup action again on June 8, in Sofia, when Luxembourg are in town for the return tie. Bulgarian coach Hristo Bonev is expecting a greater margin of victory than the autumn 2-1 win in the Grand Duchy.

The Bulgars will be watching closely to see how Israel fare in Moscow on the same day. By then the championship will have run its course and CSKA are likely to be going into the Champions League qualifying round. Levski are way out of contention, the 2-2 draw at home with Maritza Plovdiv being the final flop as far as their title hopes were concerned.

Neftochimik looked to be on for a UEFA place, though a goalless draw at Etar was disappointing, while Levski and Slavia have not given up hope of European football next year.

At the bottom, poor old Rakovski had not been able to improve on their sole point with only a quarter of the season left. Montana are the favourites to join them back in Regional Division Two, although Maritza are not completely free of trouble.

Throughout the league, scoring is the problem. The leader, Marachliev, who has shared his season between Levski Kustendil and Sparta Varna, is only on 14 followed by Slavia's Pramatorov (12) and Zatzev of Levski Sofia (11).

There is not much to excite the fans, with a very poor field contesting the League Cup semi-finals. Neftochimik are the favourites.

An interesting footnote is that rebels Stoichkov, Penev and Lechkov may be making their peace with Bonev. Everyone knows Stoichkov for one is needed and the man himself certainly will not wish to miss the chance of a last World Cup.

*Bob Vaughan*

## Czech Rep

### Uhrin hanging on

WORLD CUP hopes have slumped this spring and with Dusan Uhrin's team facing tough tasks in Slovakia and Spain there is not too much cause for optimism.

He may be wondering already if the club post he is alleged to have turned down in Switzerland after Euro 96 may still be available.

Certainly the odds on going to France are now poor but he has done a good job and the Federation may decide to keep him.

In the League Sparta are six points ahead of Slavia, having played a game more. Crowds are still poor: only 5,343 saw Sparta dismantle Opava 5-1 while Slavia kept in touch with a 4-1 win over village club Drnovice in Moravia.

Drnovice's challenge is over for the season despite Radek Drulak's 13 goals. Only Horst Siedl is ahead of him. Two in a minute against Opava decided the match, and Siedl completed a hat-trick three minutes from the end. Karvina and Bohemians look bound for the drop. The most likely replacement from Division Two is, low and behold, Dukla Prague. A 3-1 win at Frydek Mistek put them 12 points ahead of their only possible challengers, Bohdanec, who are streets ahead of Zlin.

Dukla have lost only twice this season under coach Lada Skorpil, who was at one time in charge of Dunajska Streda in Slovaka. How Dukla will be received on the other Prague grounds next season remains to be seen.

*Bob Vaughan*

## Romania

### Steaua struggle

WORLD CUP progress for Romania, whose 1-0 win at home to the Republic of Ireland puts them eight points clear, has not been matched in European club competitions and Steaua are having to fight to qualify for the Champions League preliminaries.

National are showing good form and were heading the 'Stars' with a quarter of the League programme left.

The Republic of Ireland's visit to Bucharest interrupted *Divize A* but that probably was a relief to teams such as third-placed Dinamo after a heavy defeat in Timisoara, which gave bottom-of-the-table 'Poli' renewed hope of catching Brasov and Gloria Bistrita.

There is not much left for fans this season after the Irish visit. Macedonia are the next World Cup visitors but not until August. There is the Cup Final but little else to suggest any improvement in attendances can be expected.

Even the coaches' merry-go-round has stopped. At least Forin Marin, the new incumbent at Rapid, has managed a little improvement at a club who invested heavily yet failed to get anywhere near a UEFA Cup placing.

*Bob Vaughan*

## Poland

### Mayor shuts grounds

THE two top clubs in Poland are temporarily homeless after having their grounds closed by Warsaw's Mayor.

The decision was taken after hooliganism at a match between Polonia Warsaw and close rivals Legia, when 37 police were injured – three seriously – and 76 arrests were made. Windows were smashed near the Polonia stadium, shops were looted, and a garage was set on fire.

Both clubs are now barred from playing at home until they can guarantee the absolute safety of spectators. The Polish FA have decided that both grounds need new safety certificates.

At the time, Legia led the table with 58 points from 26 games. Widzew Lodz were a point behind but with a better goal difference, with Polonia fifth on 39.

The Cup semi-finals concern the top four clubs in the League table, with Widzew playing Odra Wodzislaw (fourth) and Widzew facing GKS Katowice (third).

Sokol Tychy have withdrawn from the League because of financial problems.

Absentee...Andrezej Juskowiak

Piotr Buller, who bought Sokol Pniewy two years ago and moved the club 400 kilometres to Tychy, now says: "I will give Sokol away free to anybody who wants to take over."

Injuries to two top players upset Poland's chances of repeating their goalless draw with Italy in Chorzow. Marek Jozwiak, who plays in France with Guingamp, and Andrezej Juskowiak of Borussia Monchengladbach both pulled out of the return match in Naples.

Poland were never a threat and the hosts ran out out 3-0 winners.

*Dariusz Kurowski*

## Hungary

### Fradi fun and games

THE Australian debacle, when a 3-1 defeat for the successors to Ferenc Puskas and Co gave the great man a 70th birthday present he could have done without, did not augur well for the World Cup match with the Swiss.

Hungary lost again, 1-0 in Zurich, but although World Cup chances remain very much in the balance, MTK look sure to take the title and be Hungary's representatives in the Champions League. Two draws, 3-3 at Zalaegerszeg and 0-0 at home to Siofok, slowed their progress but even though Ujpest made up a couple of points, they remain eight adrift with eight games to go.

Ferencvaros, currently fourth and almost out of contention for Europe, sacked coach Zoltan Varga after the goalless home draw with Videoton. The dismissal had been widely expected and indeed hoped for in a number of quarters.

President Furulyas, absent from the match, decided to go too but those in favour of Varga and his president then contacted the overall Ferencvaros Omnisport boss, Szivos, who reinstated both men. How long the present situation will last, with Fradi possibly out of European football next season, is difficult to say. But clearly there is a change in the Budapest power structure.

*Bob Vaughan*

## Macedonia

### In with a shout

THE 3-2 victory against the Republic of Ireland in World Cup Group Eight was the 10th win in the 27th official match played by Macedonia – and the most important.

But Lithuania's 1-0 win in Liechtenstein moves them to within striking distance in third place, while Romania's 1-0 victory against the Irish probably puts them out of reach.

Macedonia are at home to Iceland next – without three banned regulars in goalkeeper Celevski and midfielders Stojkovski and Milosavov.

Yet coach Goko Hadzievski is upbeat. "The public now has faith in this team and the players have self-confidence," said Hadzievski, unperturbed by a 1-0 defeat to Australia.

After the Ireland match Macedonia were the fifth highest scorers, with 18 goals, in the nine European zones. Their FIFA ranking of 80th is the best ever.

In the national championship, Sileks Kratovo are already crowned because of a nine-points lead. The second club, Pobeda Prilep, have the biggest chance for the preliminary round of the UEFA Cup.

Sileks and Makedonija had a minimum 1-0 lead after the first Cup semi-final matches, against Pobeda and Sloga Jugomagnat.

*Michel Stojmanovski*

## Ukraine

### Germans close in

GOALS by Oliver Bierhoff and and Mario Basler in a 2-0 defeat in Germany moved the European champions to within a point of Ukraine and with a game in hand.

National coach Jo Szabo, having reverted to the 'bloc' system for his selections, remains confident that his team will get to France 98.

Szabo chose to start the previous match against Albania with eight Kiev Dynamo men on duty and he was quite happy with a 1-0 win.

That match was moved from Tirana to Granada because of the Albanian domestic situation. Sergey Rebrov, one of the Kiev contingent (see profile, right), scored after 41 minutes.

"The match was difficult for both sides," said Szabo, who now has veteran coach Valery Lobanovsky as his assistant. "Our aim is to create a strong unit and Valery's experience will be a big help.

"We have a good mix of experienced players with our rising stars and with a bit of luck we should qualify." Szabo and Lobanovsky have been particularly impressed with Werder Bremen's Victor Skrypnik, as well as two of the Kiev players, Oleg Luzny and Yury Kalitvintsev.

Kiev Dynamo are ahead in the title race, six points in front of little Vorskla.

*Oleg Zadernovsky*

## Pro-file Sergei Rebrov

**Club** Kiev Dynamo
**Country** Ukraine
**Born** June 3, 1974, in Donetsk
**Previous club** Shakhtor Donetsk
**International debut** June 1992, v USA
**International caps** 7 (2 goals)
**Honours** Ukraine League 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996; Ukraine Cup 1993, 1996

**KIEV DYNAMO's Ukrainian international attacker, Sergei Rebrov, is a youngster finely tuned for success.**

**He is nicknamed 'Radiohead' because of the many hours he spends listening to his favourite programmes on the airwaves, and he has been top of the pops on the Ukraine footballing scene all season long.**

**Rebrov, 22, is the pacesetter in the domestic scoring standings, thanks to a 14-goal haul from the opening games. He has been twice on target for the national team in World Cup ties, and was elected his country's Player of the Year for 1996.**

**Even so, it is premature to compare him with such Ukrainian forward-line legends as Oleg Blokhin, Igor Belanov and Oleg Protasov. But for many, Rebrov is the best penalty area predator to have emerged in that part of the world for several years.**

**Nobody could deny the impetus he has provided in Ukraine's unexpected but impressive progress on the road to France 98.**

**In their Group 9 opener against Northern Ireland, Rebrov came off the bench to net the only goal 10 minutes from time, and he was again the matchwinner in Ukraine's victory over Albania – a game held in neutral Spain because of the unrest in the 'home' country. Those six points could make all the difference as the Ukrainians compete with Germany and Portugal for the right to be in France.**

**Rebrov's World Cup exploits are all the more remarkable because he is very much an international novice. He made his debut back in 1992 in a friendly with the United States, but he had to wait four years for another call-up.**

**"Sergei is a star in the making," says Ukraine and Werder Bremen defender Viktor Skrypnyk. "Although our good results in the World Cup have been achieved through solid team play, we still have a lot to thank him for. Goals are in his blood.**

**"It's uncanny. He is the sort of player who can pop up with a goal at the moment the team needs it most. The good thing for both him and the national team is that he is still very young and is sure to improve even more over the next few years."**

**But what does the future hold for Rebrov at club level? After all, since arriving at Kiev Dynamo from Shakhtor Donetsk at the age of 18, he has played his part in winning four domestic titles and probably has gone as far as he can.**

**Almost certainly, a move to Western Europe beckons. Cash restraints in the post-Communist era means the likes of Dynamo regularly have to sell their top players to stay out of the red, and teams from Spain, Germany and France are reported to be closely monitoring the Rebrov situation.**

**The bidding war for the young striker might well turn out to be fierce.**

*Nick Bidwell*

Back in action?...Diego Maradona could be appearing for Boca Juniors once more

# Play it again, Diego

## *Eric Weil on yet another comeback for Maradona*

DIEGO MARADONA finally signed another contract to play for Boca Juniors, saying he would like to win the championship with them and play in next year's World Cup. But he has not turned up for training since and left for Spain a few days later to play in an exhibition match.

Maradona, 36, who played his last League match (for Boca Juniors) last August, is well overweight, unfit and has not been able to kick his cocaine habit.

His comeback seemed less than likely when he appeared on a television programme in Chile and vehemently chastised Argentina national team coach Daniel Passarella (one of his favourite pastimes). Maradona's blood pressure shot up and he was taken to hospital for observation. He quickly returned to Buenos Aires and went into hospital for a thorough check-up. While there, he told a packed conference that his problem had nothing to do with drugs, but instead was caused by the intense heat in the Santiago TV studio.

Although, generally, Maradona treats the media with disdain, he can't get used to not being in the limelight, and relishes being involved in high-level negotiations such as those with Boca Juniors, which had been going on for over a month and which filled the papers and news bulletins every day.

But I don't think he wants to come back to First Division soccer. He knows he can't make it and would only make a fool of himself –the trouble is, he can't admit it.

### Argentina

## Colon's plan is working

MODEST Colon, from the province of Santa Fe, continue to be the surprise team of Argentina's national closing championship. The team without expensive stars, but a clear game plan – which is not the case with most other sides – solid team work and tactical discipline, were unbeaten after nine games. They had a one-point lead over Newell's Old Boys, another team not generally among the leaders.

Opening championship winners River Plate are three points behind with a game in hand. With more reserve strength, River Plate are the only one of the big clubs in a challenging position and are looked upon as favourites for the closing title as well. But since transferring international midfielder Ariel Ortega to Valencia in Spain for a record £7million, they have been hard-pressed to pick up points. They also will be trying to retain the Libertadores Cup.

Meanwhile, Boca Juniors continue to struggle in mid-table. Their main problem is in attack, which is not functioning in spite of the talent available, although Uruguayan Sergio Martinez is joint leading scorer on seven – he got four in one game – with Colon's Rodolfo Aquino.

*Eric Weil*

### Chile

## Free-kick leads to 'quit' row

COLO COLO and Universidad Catolica, last season's champions and vice-champions, lead the opening championship at the halfway stage. Both remained unbeaten after nine games. Universidad Catolica are ahead on goal difference and are easily the highest scorers, with most of their goals being netted by Argentinians David Bisconti (top with 11 goals) and Alberto Acosta (nine).

Meanwhile, third-placed Universidad de Chile, the country's other big club, threatened to withdraw from the championship after a controversial 1-1 draw with Colo Colo.

Universidad led 1-0 until the final minute, thanks largely to the fact that their goalkeeper, Sergio Vargas, had stopped a penalty from Colo Colo's Ivo Basay. Just before the end, Vargas appeared to be pushed and fell as he was about to control the ball just outside the area, but the referee awarded a free-kick to Colo Colo, from which Pedro Reyes equalised.

*Eric Weil*

### Colombia

## Higuita's career seems finished

RENE ORLANDO HIGUITA, the piratically-coiffured Colombian goalkeeper, has exhausted the patience of even his long-time club, Atletico Nacional of Medellin.

A decade ago Higuita ran ahead of the eccentric Carlos Valderrama as his country's favourite footballer. His dashes upfield and his daring dribbles around opposing forwards endeared him to the crowds – and the football-mad cocaine barons. Higuita was friends with the Escobar family, godfathers of the Medellin drugs cartel.

But eventually Higuita's luck ran out. First, he blundered at the 1990 World Cup finals when he was caught in possession by Roger Milla and gave away the goal that sent Colombia home and Cameroon through to the quarter-finals.

Three years later Higuita's friendship with the drugs barons landed him in far more serious trouble. The daughter of a wealthy businessman had been kidnapped and held to ransom, and Higuita offered to act as go-between for her release. That was against the law. Higuita was held in custody for six months and was released too late to play at USA 94. In the meantime, the Medellin drugs boss Pablo Escobar had been tracked down by government agents and killed in a shoot-out. His coffin was draped in Atletico Nacional's club banner. Higuita's friends and protectors were gone.

He made a comeback in the spring of 1995 and came to Wembley with Colombia in September, saving Jamie Redknapp's shot with an acrobatic back-flip. But that was his final fling. Higuita's last game for Nacional was against Pereira on April 9, when he scored a goal from a free-kick.

"He has repeatedly missed training," said president Hernan Cadavid. "He has no place here any more. We are ready to talk to any clubs from other countries who are interested in signing him – if there are any."

The coach of Millonarios, Uruguayan Angel Castelnoble, resigned after receiving death threats due to the team's poor performances. Millonarios are next to bottom in Colombia's 16-team First Division after being vice-champions last season.

But it has not been all doom and gloom for Millonarios. They knocked out third-placed Deportivo Cali in the first round group of the Libertadores Cup, they are Colombia's only remaining representatives in the competition, and they have gained a 2-0 lead against powerful Gremio of Brazil in the second round.

America continue to run away with the championship, with a 12-point lead over Nacional.

*Keir Radnedge and Eric Weil*



# Referee problems grow and grow

## *Brian Homewood reports on a spate of brawls and scandals*

### Brazil

FUN AND GAMES continue in the Rio de Janeiro championship. The latest bizarre episode ended with Vasco da Gama supporters chanting "it's a fix" and "robbery" after watching their team WIN.

Their protests followed Vasco's highly-controversial 2-1 defeat of Volta Redonda, when they scored in the fourth and sixth minutes of injury time against opponents down to nine men.

Match reports claimed referee Duque had "invented and inverted fouls", and said the two dismissals – which came immediately after Volta Redonda had taken the lead early in the second half – were unnecessarily harsh. Former referee Reginaldo Matias said: "The referee visibly favoured Vasco."

Volta Redonda alleged they were victims of a devious plot to get Americano, the darling club of Rio Federation president Eduardo Viana, into the third stage of the competition at their expense.

Their protests were backed by America, who were eliminated in the first stage. America vice-president Jose Roberto Justo said: "Eduardo Viana is responsible for the off-the-field scheme which got Americano into the second round by manipulating the choice of referees." He said that Duque had showed his team nine yellow cards in the first half of a crucial match against Itaperuna, which they lost 2-1, and added: "This referee's strategy is well known. He intimidates players, inverts fouls so that they complain and can be given the yellow card, then he sends them off."

Suspicions were further aroused when Americano beat Madureira 1-0 with a dubious 86th-minute penalty, but Duque, a taxi driver by profession, was defended by his work-mates. "He referees matches for the love of it," said a driver who shares the same rank.

Viana, for his part, was unmoved. "Duque refereed normally," he said, adding he would not stand down as president. "If I don't die, I will be re-elected," he said. And probably he is right. Although three of the four major clubs – Botafogo, Flamengo and Fluminense – would dearly love to see him removed, Viana has the backing of the minor leagues, who account for around 80 per cent of the votes in the Rio Federation electoral college.

Viana's only ally among the major clubs is Vasco vice-president Eurico Miranda, who came up with a classic when he tried to explain the protests of the Vasco supporters. "They were Flamengo fans disguised as Vasco fans, sent here by Kleber Leite [president of Flamengo]," he said. For their part, Flamengo, Botafogo and Fluminense, organised a "black protest" the following weekend, when they took the field wearing black shirts over their normal strips.

The Vasco-Volta Redonda affair overshadowed yet another brawl in the tournament, which is now totally discredited. All hell broke out during the Madureira game with Flamengo, when Flamengo scored an injury-time equaliser. When Marco Aurelio's shot appeared to hit the woodwork and bounce back into play, the referee initially waved play on, but he then changed his mind after the linesman signalled a goal.

This was the cue for Madureira players to attack the linesman en masse, which in turn prompted dozens of police, radio reporters, TV reporters, cameramen, officials, directors, hangers-on, friends of hangers-on, self-styled security men and families and friends of self-styled security men to join in. Play was held up for 10 minutes until the police formed a huge cordon to allow the referee back on.

As soon as he reached the centre circle, however, he was surrounded by protesting Madureira players and the whole melee started again, with Madureira's president as ring leader. By this time, television replays had shown that the goal was, in fact, legitimate: the ball had hit the stanchion behind the goalpost and then bounced down in front of the line.

The pitch was finally cleared after a 15-minute break, 20 more seconds of football was played and the referee blew for time. "This is another lamentable episode in our football," said Flamengo striker Romario, who kept well clear of the trouble.

Botafogo, who won the first stage, also led the second (the winners of the three stages go into the final play-off), but Flamengo, who lost to Botafogo's reserves in the first stage, continued their miserable run by losing 3-2 to a severely depleted Fluminense team.

Their defeat came one week after the draw with Madureira, which resulted in former international Junior becoming the fifth Flamengo manager to lose his job during president Leite's 30-month reign.

Fluminense, who replaced Julio Cesar Leal with Valdir Espinosa at the end of the first stage, are struggling bravely in a dire situation. The floodlights at the training ground are not turned on until half an hour after dark to save energy, and members who use the amateur facilities say the place is crumbling.

The dance of the managers continued unabated in the Sao Paulo championship. Guarani president Beto Zini, affectionately known as 'The Exterminator of the Present', sacked Geninho after an 8-2 defeat by Corinthians. Abel, his replacement, lasted four matches, none won. Abel was replaced by Muricy Ramalho, who one week earlier had been relieved of his job at Sao Paulo for the second time in less than a year.

Ramalho, previously assistant, took over for the first time after ill-health forced Tele Santana to step down. In July, Ramalho was brushed aside to make way for Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil's 1994 World Cup coach. Ramalho became assistant but got the top job back in October when Parreira was sacked.

Elsewhere, Jose Carlos Serrao was sacked by Aracatuba, moved almost immediately to America-Rio Preto to replace Zanata, but lasted only a couple of weeks before being dismissed again. Juventus and Portuguesa-Santista also changed manager.

The marathon first stage of the competition at least managed to serve up plenty of good football, in particular from Portuguesa, Santos, Corinthians and Palmeiras. Some of the minor teams from the interior, such as Mogi Mirim, Uniao Sao Joao and Rio Branco, also put up some enterprising performances. Unfortunately, these clubs are still not capable of challenging the city teams over a prolonged period and this meant much of the football was pointless, because three of the four finalists were virtually a forgone conclusion.

Corinthians and Sao Paulo looked as if they would qualify fairly comfortably in group two, while in group one Palmeiras opened up a huge lead and looked uncatchable. The only issue was whether Santos or Portuguesa would join them in the final 'quadrangular'.

In the Copa Brasil, Corinthians became the first semi-finalists when they thrashed Atletico Paranaense 6-2 away to win 7-4 on aggregate. In the other quarter-finals, Palmeiras won the first leg 5-2 away to Ceara, with Viola scoring four, Gremio beat Vitoria 2-0 at home, while Flamengo and Internacional drew 1-1 in Porto Alegre in a game marred by yet more trouble when a man ran on to the field to attack referee Sidrack Marinho.

In the previous round, Flamengo had dispatched Rio Branco-Acre, who come from deep in the Amazon region. Few of Rio Branco's part-timers had even visited Rio before and playing at Maracana had been a dream for them. Unfortunately, their big night out was spoilt by goalkeeper Valtenir. Having been sent off for a combination of time-wasting and complaining, Valtenir grabbed the referee by the neck, punched him and then kicked him. The referee made a formal complaint and the goalkeeper left in a police car. He was released after being charged with assault.

## Dunga and Edmundo are back in

DUNGA, Brazil's World Cup captain, was recalled for the first time in nearly two years when the squad for a friendly with Mexico was announced, but the real surprise was striker Edmundo's return.

'The Animal' was called up despite being sent off in two successive games for Vasco da Gama. Not surprisingly, manager Mario Zagallo faced intensive questioning over his choice and his argument that "what he does with Vasco has nothing to do with me, he has never caused any trouble with the national team" seemed less than convincing.

Edmundo has an appalling disciplinary record and has flitted from club to club over the past two years. He played for Brazil in the 1995 Copa America and a four-nation tournament in England the same year, but was left out of the World Cup and many felt his exclusion was due to his temperament.

Dunga, won the last of his 65 caps against South Korea in August 1995.

Zagallo ignored reported pleas from Barcelona and called up Ronaldo for the eighth time since he joined the Spanish club. Barcelona were reportedly angry at losing Ronaldo's services so frequently.

You can't help thinking that after so much chopping and changing, Zagallo is aiming to phase in almost the entire 1994 team again. Differences with Romario and Taffarel have been papered over this year, while Mauro Silva and Aldair are also in again. For the Mexico game, Zagallo also picked Marcio Santos, Aldair's central defensive partner in the World Cup Final.

Two uncapped players were named to face Mexico – Gremio forward Paulo Nunes and Vitoria full-back Russo.

Brazil followed up home wins over Lithuania, Cameroon, Bosnia and Poland with a 4-0 demolition of Chile's reserves. Ronaldo and Romario scored two apiece.

*Brian Homewood*

Recalled...Dunga

# Halfway through and nothing new

***Paul Gardner sees no twists on the road to France***

## USA

THE Hexagonal – CONCACAF's six-team final qualifying round for France 98 – has reached the halfway stage with no shocks or surprises. Mexico are odds-on favourites to win the group, and Costa Rica and the USA the most likely teams to accompany them to France. El Salvador have a remote chance of upsetting that order. The idea of either Canada or Jamaica, two very weak teams, qualifying is too alarming to contemplate.

Mexico and the USA drew 2-2 in Foxboro – a result that satisfied both teams, and showed very clearly that the US are now worthy opponents for the Mexicans.

Mexico-USA rivalry is becoming a serious matter. There was a time when such a game would have been automatically played in Los Angeles, where a crowd of 90,000 could be guaranteed. But most of those 90,000 would be supporting Mexico.

So the game was played in Foxboro, outside Boston – about as far away as you can get from Los Angeles. The US wanted to ensure a pro-American crowd. Also, maybe the weather in April would be a bit cold for the Mexicans…

As it turned out, the weather was sunny and mild, and while the crowd was huge – a sell-out of nearly 58,000 – it included a substantial number of Mexicans.

They were quickly celebrating as the game got off to a wild start. Just 39 seconds had elapsed when goalkeeper Kasey Keller took too long to clear the ball. As Keller kicked, Carlos Hermosillo charged in. Leaping high he took the full force of the ball on his forehead, but managed to head it down – it bounced over Keller and into the empty net.

The USA's rising star, defender Eddie Pope, got the Americans back on terms late in the first half. But the Mexicans kept coming, and went ahead again when Luis Hernandez beat the offside trap and chipped the ball neatly over the advancing Keller.

Hernandez then got himself sent off – an absurd decision since the contact with Alexi Lalas was clearly accidental – and within five minutes the USA were level again. Another zany goal, as Mexican substitute Nicolas Ramirez headed gently into his own goal.

**The Equalizer…Eddie Pope got the US back on terms**

US coach Steve Sampson pulled out all the stops for the victory, sending on two attacking players, David Wagner and Michael Mason. Mason, in particular, caused the Mexicans a lot of problems with his speed. But the game ended in a draw.

Sampson and Mexican coach Bora Milutinovic were smiling after the match – the tie left both teams well placed for a World Cup berth in France. Sampson also looked relieved; the USA had not played particularly well in their previous games, and – another sign that soccer is taken more seriously in the USA these days – rumours were swirling around that his job was on the line.

"It wasn't the best way to start a game," he said afterwards, "but we went on to play the best brand of soccer that I've seen in a long time."

The appearance of Wagner and Mason, though, sends a warning to the people responsible for the development of the game in the USA. Neither Wagner nor Mason learned his soccer in the USA. Both play in Germany and are pure German products, "foreigners" eligible for the USA because both had American fathers.

Indeed, the eligibility of Wagner had been the cause of some frantic discussion in the week leading up to the game. The Canadians had requested that FIFA look into Wagner's background, as they felt he might already have represented Germany at Under-20 level.

If true, it would have meant he was ineligible for the USA. Moreover, as Wagner had played in the USA's 3-0 win over Canada, the Canadians were no doubt hoping to get that result reversed.

But a flurry of phone calls and faxes between the USA and FIFA eventually settled the matter. The Canadians were confused – they were talking about a different Wagner.

There was further comfort for both Sampson and Milutinovic the following week when Jamaica and Canada drew 0-0 in Vancouver. The two countries have now played three games each in the Hexagonal, and have yet to score a goal. The banality of the Vancouver game made it very clear that neither the USA nor Mexico has anything to fear from Canada or Jamaica.

MAJOR League Soccer's marketing department has been working overtime to promote the League's players. Evidently, there is a feeling that soccer needs personalities to get its message over to the American public.

Ten players, one from each team, have been given fanciful, and often incomprehensible, nicknames. We have John "The Juggler" Harkes, Brian "The Deliverer" McBride, Alexi "The Head Hunter" Lalas, Tony "The Wall" Meola, Roy "Lights Out" Lassiter, and so on.

Each player is featured in his own elaborate commercial, some even have speaking parts. This promotional campaign is just another example of a distressing trend in US soccer: there seems to be a feeling that soccer cannot be sold on its own strengths as a sport – it must be wrapped in gimmickry.

The tendency was evident in the publicity for the USA-Mexico game. The United States Soccer Federation's own game notes featured statistics showing that USA v Mexico games usually produce a lot of fouls, and then tried to up the temperature by quoting, evidently with approval, Eric Wynalda saying how he hated the Mexicans.

The theme was taken up by ABC television, who opened their broadcast with footage of violence from a previous game. The announcers then went on to draw attention to "the 107 fouls in these teams' three previous meetings". In case anyone had missed the point, viewers were kept up to date by regular graphics showing the "foul count" as the game progressed.

An irony, this. It has long been a justified complaint of soccer fans here that the media only paid attention to the game when there were fights and brawls. Now we have the USSF, the country's top soccer body, handing out press releases featuring just such information.

## Mexico

### Sanchez set to quit

HUGO SANCHEZ is likely to end his 20-year career just short of his 400th goal.

Sanchez has said he will quit after a special game in his honour, being staged on May 29 at Bernabeu in Madrid, scene of some of his greatest triumphs.

He has scored 394 League goals, and is sixth in the list of world scorers recently recognised by IFFHS, the international statistical society. Unfortunately, his career is ending on a low note, for he has scored only twice for his latest club, Atletico Celaya, who are a long way off the pace in the new Mexican League format.

I was sceptical about the logic of the new-style competition, with winter and summer leagues and three points for a win, but admit that it has led to a seesaw competition and a tight finish.

Apart from Guadalajara (15 consecutive games without defeat) and America (eight straight wins) the clubs were constantly switching places, and only three others are assured of lining up in the eight-team playoffs for the summer title. They are Santos Laguna (the winter champions), Pumas Unam, and Toros Neza.

As expected, Mexico are virtually certain of qualifying for the World Cup, but their 2-2 draw with the United States in Foxboro had little to commend it.

I still cannot understand coach Bora Milutinovic's tactics or some of his selections. Even so, Mexico should qualify, for they still have to play the USA, Costa Rica and El Salvador in the Azteca Stadium, where they have not lost for 17 years.

*Carlos F Ramirez*

## Canada

### Bad week for Bob

**A BAD week at the office for Bob Lenarduzzi reached its nadir when his Canadian national side were held to a goalless draw at home by Jamaica in the final phase of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying series.**

**The Canadians had plenty of chances to score their first goal in the group but wasted them all, to the disappointment of the 7,634 crowd in Burnaby. Portugal-based Alex Bunbury (from Maritimo) had the best chance 10 minutes from the final whistle. But his shot from close range ricocheted off goalkeeper Aaron Lawrence and then off the crossbar. Two minutes later Jamaica might have snatched all three points, but Altimon Butler's close-range shot was deflected across goal by keeper Paul Dolan.**

**Three teams from the group qualify for France 98 and Canada appear unlikely to be among them.**

**The week had started to go wrong for Lenarduzzi when he was publicly criticised by veteran forward Domenic Mobilio for dropping him from a team which needs all the attacking help it can get. Then first-choice goalkeeper Craig Forrest arrived nursing a back injury suffered playing for Chelsea.**




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Tomorrow the world?...South Africa, the African champions, aim to be a significant force at France 98

# Back in contention

## *Mark Gleeson profiles South Africa, the African champions who are bidding for a first-ever place in the World Cup finals*

SUCCESS for South Africa in last year's African Nations Cup heralded the return of the country to mainstream competition after years of sporting isolation. The political policy of apartheid kept South Africa from the playing fields of the world, but despite this, domestic soccer continued at professional level.

When South Africa returned to the FIFA fold in July 1992, they initially struggled to find their feet, but within three-and-a-half years they were crowned African champions at the end of a stirring tournament on home soil.

The win, plus home draws against the likes of Argentina and Germany, pushed the country into the top 20 on the FIFA rankings, and to top place among the African countries.

South Africa's developed infrastructure and huge corporate sponsorship resources set them apart from the rest of the continent, only just managing to keep their heads above water.

But the *Bafana Bafana* (The Boys), as the team are nicknamed, have struggled of late in their bid to qualify for a first-ever appearance at the World Cup finals, scoring just three goals in four matches and losing momentum with a 2-0 away defeat to Congo.

They need a draw and a victory in their last two qualifying matches, both at home, to make it to France next year and continue their rapid development.

Coach Clive Barker, a native South African who played soccer for Durban United in the 1960s, has moulded together a squad of highly talented individuals, who previously spent more time seeking to entertain the crowd with their trickery than in pursuing goals. Now, with half the squad playing professionally in Europe and the US, South Africa have a more clinical approach to the sport.

The goals are still slow in coming but Barker has kept with a tried and tested line-up over the past two years, and the team have lost only three times in the last 29 games.

The team also have developed a high international profile, and they visit England for the first-ever full international between the two countries, at Old Trafford, on May 24. They play Holland at home 10 days later and have matches scheduled against France and Brazil before going to Saudi Arabia at the end of the year for the FIFA Confederations Cup.

A full squad should be on hand for the match against Glenn Hoddle's side, serving as a useful warm-up ahead of a vital World Cup qualifier against Zambia in Johannesburg on June 8.

## The Squad

### GOALKEEPERS

**Andre ARENDSE**
Cape Town Spurs. Aged 29; 20 caps. Kept a clean sheet for the national team for a record 693 minutes before being beaten twice in the World Cup qualifier against Congo in April. Played for the African XI against Europe in January. Had unsuccessful trials in England with Everton. Helped his club to the South African League and Cup double in 1995.

**Mark ANDERSON**
Umtata Bucks. Aged 34; 6 caps. South Africa's first-choice keeper on the return to international football in 1992 but then lost his place. Only drafted back into the squad last year after fine performances for his club side. He was South Africa's Footballer of the Year in 1987.

### DEFENDERS

**Mark FISH**
Lazio (Ita). Aged 24; 23 caps (2 goals). South Africa's youngest-ever footballer when he made his debut in October 1993 against Mexico. His performances in the African Nations Cup won him a £1.2million transfer from Orlando Pirates to Lazio. Played for the FIFA World XI against Brazil in New York last year and Africa against Europe in January.

**Sizwe MOTAUNG**
Tenerife (Spa). Aged 27; 41 caps. Signed for Tenerife from Swiss club St Gallen in January and played in the second leg of the UEFA Cup semi-final against Schalke, having missed the first leg because of World Cup commitments. The only man to have played in all 10 of South Africa's World Cup matches.

**David NYATHI**
Tenerife (Spa). Aged 28; 26 caps. A survivor from South Africa's first international five years ago against Cameroon. Like Motaung, was signed from St Gallen in January. Previously with Kaizer Chiefs, Cape Town Spurs, Orlando Pirates and Dangerous Darkies.

**Lucas RADEBE**
Leeds United (Eng). Aged 28; 27 caps. Captained South Africa for the first time in their last game after veteran Neil Tovey was dropped. Injury has plagued his career but Clive Barker describes him as best player in the team. Played for Kaizer Chiefs before joining Leeds, for whom he appeared in last year's League Cup final. Started as a goalkeeper and played at international level before converting to midfield and then defence.

**Neil TOVEY**
Kaizer Chiefs. Aged 34; 44 caps. Record-breaking veteran who was dropped for the first time for South Africa's last match after 37 games. Has won more caps than any other South African and holds the domestic record for the most League and Cup matches. Seems to get better with age.

### MIDFIELDERS

**Linda BUTHELEZI**
Mamelodi Sundowns. Aged 27; 24 caps. Hard-tackling midfielder who has lost only one game with South Africa. Played a pivotal role in midfield during last year's Nations Cup, but recently lost his place. Has had a trial with Birmingham City.

**Doctor KHUMALO**
Columbus Crew (USA). Aged 29; 38 caps (9 goals). Mercurial talent with sensational ball skills who has been a long-standing member of the squad. Helped get World Cup qualifying campaign back on track in Zaire with a goal and an assist in the 2-1 win. Played most of his career at Kaizer Chiefs before joining MLS last year.

**Helman MKHALALE**
Orlando Pirates. Aged 27; 20 caps (2 goals). Fast winger with powerful shot and deceptive turn. Won African Champions Cup in December 1995 and the Nations Cup two months later.

**John MOETI**
Orlando Pirates. Aged 29; 10 caps. Short but tough midfielder normally used as a substitute to shore up the midfield. A member of Nations Cup-winning team, and won the African Champions Cup and African Super Cup with his club.

**John MOSHOEU**
Kocaelispor (Tur). Aged 31; 31 caps (6 goals). Playmaker with loads of skills and guile. Recently helped his club win the Turkish Cup and an unexpected place in next season's European Cup-winners Cup. Scored four goals in 1996 Nations Cup.

**Dumisa NGOBE**
Orlando Pirates. Aged 24; 2 caps (1 goal). Scored on debut against Kenya last year, but was a disappointment in midfield against Zaire in April. Won the 1995 Champions Cup with Orlando Pirates.

**Eric TINKLER**
Cagliari (Ita). Aged 26; 23 caps (1 goal). Journeyman professional who went from obscurity in the Portuguese Second Division with Vitoria Setubal to a place in Serie A after his performances for Bafana Bafana in last year's Nations Cup finals. Left South Africa as a teenager to play in Portugal and now holds dual nationality.

### FORWARDS

**Brendan AUGUSTINE**
Linzer ASK (Austria). Aged 25; 14 caps (3 goals). Missed last year's Nations Cup finals because he had skipped the pre-tournament camp to go for a trial in Austria. His gamble paid off with a contract and he has now regained his place in the team. A tireless worker.

**Shaun BARTLETT**
Colorado Rapids (USA). Aged 24; 19 caps (6 goals). Signed for MLS before last year's Nations Cup finals, where his performances might have rather won him a contract in Europe. Tried out at PSV Eindhoven last December but back for a second season in the USA.

**George KOUMANTARAKIS**
Manning Rangers. Aged 23; 1 cap. Greek-born striker who is top goalscorer in South Africa this season, leading his unfashionable club to within chasing distance of a first-ever championship. Top scorer for South Africa at Under-23 level but has played only 18 minutes for the senior national team.

**Phil MASINGA**
Salernitana (Ita). Aged 27; 28 caps (10 goals). Top striker for South Africa and back after a short "retirement" from the national team after home fans had hurled abuse at him. Formerly with Leeds in England and then St Gallen in Switzerland before joining Salernitana in Serie B.

**Jerry SIKHOSANA**
Orlando Pirates. Aged 27; 6 caps. Scored the winner for his club in the 1995 African Champions Cup final but has not scored for his country. Made his international debut last September. Dropped for South Africa's last match after six successive outings .

WORLD CUP ROUND-UP

## Tunisia close to making finals

TUNISIA are within one point of becoming the first nation to qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals – apart from holders Brazil and hosts France, of course.

Runners-up in last year's African Nations Cup, the Tunisians beat Liberia 2-0 in Tunis in their latest qualifying challenge. Even if they lose to Egypt on June 8 they can still qualify by earning a point in the return game against George Weah and Liberia. Liberia themselves have lost their chance of reaching France 98.

Goals from Adel Sellimi in the 60th minute and Khaled Badra 12 minutes from time provided Tunisia and coach Henryk Kasperczak with their fourth win in four.

Egypt can catch them, mathematically, after securing a thrilling 3-2 win away to Namibia in Windhoek. Veteran forward Hosan Hassan scored his second goal of the game in the last minute after the Namibians had made it 2-2 late on.

In other games, Kenya squeezed past Guinea 1-0 in Nairobi to move to second in Group One, while Olympic champions Nigeria stretched their lead to three points after winning 2-1 in Burkina Faso.

The home side helped Nigeria on their way by conceding a silly own goal five minutes short of the interval. Defender Magaoule Diabate played a simple enough back pass but it took a surprise bounce, slipped through goalkeeper Ibrahima Diarrawho's legs and into the net. Barcelona winger Emmanuel Amunike outsprinted the hosts' defence for the second goal, before Mamadou Zongo got a late consolation for Burkina Faso.

In Group Three, bottom-placed Zambia shocked leaders Congo by winning 3-0 in Lusaka, while African champions South Africa pulled level on points with Congo by winning 2-1 against Zaire. Striker Phil Masinga scored the South Africans' 71st-minute winner in a match moved out of Zaire's capital Kinshasa because of the escalating civil war.

Cameroon, who made it to the two most recent World Cup finals, went top of Group Four by defeating Togo 2-0 – aided and abetted by previous leaders Angola slipping back after a 0-0 draw away to Zimbabwe in Harare.

In Group Five, Mohammed Gargo scored twice in three minutes as Ghana upset Gabon 3-0 in Accra. It was unbeaten Ghana's first win after three draws in succession and it lifted them up into second place behind Morocco, who beat Sierra Leone 1-0.

Sierra Leone, who included midfielder John Keister from English side Walsall, had only themselves to blame. A blunder by Mohammed Kanu handed the winner on a plate to Morocco's Bassir Salaheddine. Victory meant Morocco had seven points from three games with the prospect of FIFA increasing it to 10 when it decides what to do about the game in Gabon which was abandoned when home fans rioted with Morocco leading 4-0.

*Keir Radnedge*

Out of it...Liberia's George Weah

## Pro-file Sunday Oliseh

**Club** FC Koln
**Country** Nigeria
**Born** September 14, 1974
**Previous clubs** Julius Berger, FC Liege (Belg), Reggiana (Ita)
**International debut** April 1993, v Ethiopia
**International caps** 18 (0 goals)
**Honours** Olympic gold medallist 1996; African Nations Cup 1994; Afro-Asian Nations Cup 1995

**SUNDAY Oliseh's baby face and gangly legs belie a steely force that has transformed him into one of the most consistent performers in European football.**

**Oliseh, still only 22, has overcome a slow start to his career at Bundesliga club FC Koln to emerge as a vital cog in the side...and a feared opponent in one of the world's toughest leagues. The Nigerian, who was first capped at the age of 18, was recently named as the best defensive midfielder in the Bundesliga after first battling to settle down in Germany.**

**It was always destined that the friendly youngster would rise to become one of the prominent figures in world football, having left home at the age of 16 to make his name in European football. Oliseh spent a happy spell in his teenage years at Belgian club FC Liege, where he was first noticed by Nigeria's Dutch coach, Clemens Westerhof.**

**A tame debut against Ethiopia in 1993 in a 6-0 win in the African Nations Cup qualifying competition and another cap in a friendly against Ghana was all the international experience that Oliseh had before going into the Nations Cup finals in Tunisia in 1994. But he repaid the coach's faith by playing a faultless role in Nigeria's tournament victory and was a first-team regular by the time the World Cup finals in the USA came around four months later.**

**Oliseh, who now has 18 caps, still carries some of the blame for Nigeria's defeat against Italy in the second round in Boston, when the Africans were just seconds away from a shock win but allowed Italy a late equaliser...and then lost in extra-time. A sloppy throw-in by Oliseh allowed Roberto Baggio to race away and score, effectively ending Nigeria's dreams of a first-ever African World Cup success.**

**But Oliseh, who has recently become a father for the first time, has his sights set on the next finals in France where Nigeria are expected to again take a place. "I hope it will be the first time that an African team wins the World Cup and that that team will be Nigeria. But we have to qualify first." Nigeria have a relatively easy group with Burkina Faso, Guinea and Kenya.**

**Oliseh's contract with Koln, who he joined after a season in Serie A with Reggiana, ends in June next year, perfectly timed to allow him to shine on the World Cup stage in France and earn himself a lucrative move elsewhere.**

**Playing in Germany remains difficult for the youngster, who says: "They play too much with the head here and not enough with the heart." But he admits that the Bundesliga has done much for his game, more than he would have learnt in Nigeria had he stayed with his first club, Julius Berger.**

**"In Europe we learn tactical discipline but African players have a better intelligence and are learning to play with better conditioning and order. We are so much better than we ever were," he says. Koln can vouch for that.**

*Mark Gleeson*

# Antlers with plenty of points

## *Kashima take an early grip on the J.League*

### Japan

KASHIMA ANTLERS set a fierce pace at the start of this year's J.League. First they came from behind to defeat Verdy Kawasaki 3-2 in the Xerox Super Cup, Japan's equivalent of the FA Charity Shield, despite having Brazilian Jorginho sent off early in the game. And after one month of the League's first stage, they were top and unbeaten.

Manager Joao Carlos reinforced last year's championship-winning team with the signing of Brazilian midfielder Bismarck, who left Verdy Kawasaki at the end of last year, and Japanese international Akira Narahashi from Bellmare Hiratsuka.

Bismarck, bought to replace Leonardo, now with PSG, was a member of the 1990 World Cup squad but is still only 27. He delivers the passes, and Mazinho is putting them away, with six goals in four League matches so far.

**Super success...Kashima Antlers lift the Xerox Super Cup**

Mazinho is joined up front by 19-year-old Atsushi Yanagisawa, tipped to make the full national team this year. He is the main pretender to Shoji Jo's throne as Japan's top goal poacher.

"I am asking the whole team to support Yanagisawa," says Joao Carlos. "His game is gaining in scope."

Yanagisawa is a regular starter for Antlers, despite the competition of experienced forwards such as Yoshiyuki Hasegawa and Hisashi Kurosaki, who are international candidates. There is also Yasuo Manaka, who went on five minutes from time against Jubilo Iwata and netted another a spectacular winner.

Joao Carlos teaches total football, with everyone contributing to attack and defence, and he exudes total confidence. "All teams are better this year," he says. "About 10 will be in the race, with three left at the finish. But we will win."

Having already beaten Nagoya Grampus Eight, Yokohama Flugels and Jubilo Iwata in successive games, Antlers face difficult matches with Kashiwa Reysol, Urawa Reds and much-improved Gamba Osaka. If they win those, too, then Joao Carlos's words may even sound rather modest. The team will be hard to catch.

Guido Buchwald was in majestic form, even at 36, as title hopefuls Urawa Reds celebrated their 100th J.League (and League Cup) "home" game at the National Stadium in Tokyo. The party was spoiled by Takuya Takagi of Sanfrecce Hiroshima, who scored a late winner. "Buchwald was the best player on the field," said Sanfrecce manager Eddie Thomson. "He was everywhere."

The new Urawa manager, German Horst Koeppel, was more worried about where the others were. "We have combination problems and not enough players moving into space on the sides," he said. "We have youngsters in the team and a new system, so we need time to build the kind of soccer I want."

The main problem is still how to replace Uwe Bein, who left at the end of last year. Koeppel has tried several variations, including a three-man forward line with the introduction of two teenage strikers, Yuichiro Nagai and Taichi Sato. National team striker Masahiro Fukuda is now making a comeback after last year's broken ankle, and with their other national team striker, Masayuki Okano, also growing in maturity, Koeppel is spoilt for choice in attack. The question is how to convert that luxury into goals.

Koeppel also opted for a teenager in defence, Akihiro Tabata, even dropping off-form French stopper Basile Boli for one game.

The third foreigner, Austrian Michael Bauer, was brought in as a defensive midfielder but has not settled. He was dropped after two League games and is now reported to be asking to go home.

Yokohama Marinos made a good start to the season with four wins out of five despite the absence of Spanish signing Julio Salinas, injured in training. Other news is that Kashiwa Reysol's Brazilian defender, Antonio, has joined Corinthians, while Avispa Fukuoka have signed Argentinian striker Julio Rossi from River Plate. He replaces Paraguayan Richard Baez, who has left for Colo Colo in Chile. Brazilian World Cup captain Dunga has extended his contract with Jubilo Iwata to the end of 1998.

*Mike Plastow & Mishi Ishiima*

### China

## No Hao, but Dalian still know how

DEFENDING champions Dalian began the new Chinese season with five successive victories even though they could not field the most expensive player in the country.

They had signed Hao Haidong from August First earlier in the year, for a record £172,000, but he failed to pass the stringent CFA physical tests imposed during the annual six-week training period, and now waits for a second chance to show that his fitness has improved.

Dalian, four points clear of Shanghai, are now unbeaten in 39 games.

In contrast, poor Liaoning, once the country's leading club, are now bottom of the Second Division. Coach Gai Zengchen has been dismissed and replaced by Li Yingfa, who took Liaoning to seven titles during his earlier spell in charge.

Qianwei, promoted last season, signed three internationals but took only four points from the first 20, and three of those were awarded to them by the CFA after opponents Tianjin had been found guilty of fielding an ineligible player in a 1-1 draw.

During last season's Second Division championship Qianwei were awarded 11 penalties, some of them in dubious circumstances. That, and the appeal against Tianjin – felt by most followers to be within their rights in fielding the controversial player – have sent Qianwei down the popularity list. Klaus Schlappner, their German coach – formerly with the Chinese national squad – has a lot of work to do to keep the team successful.

*Li Huoning*

### India

## Iraq joy diluted

IRAQ retained the Nehru Cup, played for the 12th time, but it was a low-key event. Four nations – Iran, Nigeria, Kenya and Bulgaria – did not turn up, leaving only five countries represented. Of the five, Uzbekistan sent their youth team, and Ghana, a last-minute entry, sent a squad comprising mostly amateurs with only a few seniors.

The tournament, staged at the new Nehru Stadium in Cochin, saw Uzbekistan beat China and Iraq beat India on penalties. After China had beaten India to take third place, Iraq won the final 3-1.

The All-India Federation have changed the rules on foreign players. Clubs now can have five registered, with four allowed to play in league games.

*Bhasi Malaparamba*

**Indian wave...fans enjoy the Nehru Cup**

### Australia

## Two more for Terry

TERRY VENABLES now has a five-out-of-five record as national team coach, after victories over Macedonia and Hungary.

Despite fielding several players who have spent an uncomfortably large amount of time on benches around Europe in recent months, Australia deserved to win both games. Against Macedonia in Skopje, they had to wait until the last minute before a header from captain Aurelio Vidmar snatched a 1-0 victory. The match in Budapest was a comfortable 3-1 win.

The two squads comprised 21 players and gave an indication of how far and wide Australia's best are now spread. Nine came from England, two from Japan, three from Croatia, two from Italy and one each from Malaysia, Holland, Spain, France and Germany.

Sydney United made League history when scoring their third in the 3-2 victory over Collingwood Warriors. This was their 63rd goal for the season – one more than the record, set by the 1989 Marconi side.

The win all but assured United of the "Minor Premiers" title, taken by the team topping the table after the end of the champion's double round-robin section.

It is highly unlikely that Warriors will continue as a State League side. The Collingwood Australian Rules Football Club they shared their ground with have withdrawn their financial support. Warriors' place next season will be taken by Carlton Blues, also under the umbrella of an established Australian Rules club.

*Paul Moon*



IN BRIEF

## Saudis sweep to second round

**SAUDI ARABIA**, the 1996 Asian Cup champions, swept through to the second round of the 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign by taking 16 points from a possible 18.

They won five of their six games in Group One and drew the other 0-0 against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. Chinese Taipei and Bangladesh were the other two competing nations.

The United Arab Emirates, runners-up in the Asian Cup, are likely to go through, having a three-point lead over Jordan.

Singapore caused a surprise in Group Seven by holding Lebanon to a 1-1 away draw.

AL ANSAR won their ninth successive **LEBANESE** League title, dropping only 13 points in their 26-game season. Al Nijmeh, who finished second, seven points behind, beat them 2-0 in the Cup Final.

In **SAUDI ARABIA** the top four clubs will play off for the League title. They are Al Ittihad from Jeddah and Al Nasr, Al Hilal and Al Shabab, all from Riyadh. Al Qadsia of Khobar City, who won the 1994 Asian Cup-winners Cup, have been relegated for the first time since the League's formation in 1976.

Al Wahda from the **YEMEN** capital, Sanaa, retained the championship by beating Ittihad AB 2-1 away on the final day of the season.

In the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**, Al Wasl clinched the title for the sixth time, a record, three points ahead of Nasr and Wahda.

Al Rayyan of **QATAR** had 24 points and led Al Ittihad by two with five matches to play.

In **OMAN**, the championship went to Oman SC, for the first time, with three rounds still to play.

The **PALESTINE** FA have recruited a four-man coaching team from Argentina, who will spend three weeks selecting a squad of 30 local players and then take them to South America for a 45-day training camp.

*Mohamed Chbaro*

### KOREA

## Daewoo drive

PUSAN DAEWOO, one of the outsiders for the Adidas Cup, won the 10-team tournament by two points.

Ulsan Hyundai, the favourites, were held to draws in both their last two games, allowing Pusan to go to the top and clinch victory by beating Chonan Ilwha 4-1 on the final day.

Chunnam Dragons took second place ahead of Ulsan on goal difference, after a 6-0 rout of Puchon Yukong.

There was an oddity in the scoring list, where Seo Jung Won of Anyang LG finished top with eight goals, but was not on the winning side in any of his team's nine matches. Anyang were last in the table after six draws and three defeats.

The League programme started at the end of April and runs until October 25.

*Kon Rik Syongt*

**IN NEW ZEALAND**, Waitakere City maintained their domestic dominance with a 3-1 victory over Napier City Rovers in the Grand Final. The West Auckland club have won each of the last five major competitions in which they have taken part.

After opening the season with three successive defeats, Waitakere at last appeared vulnerable, but they lost only three of their remaining 18 matches.

Waitakere were also unconvincing in the earliest stages of the final and could have been two goals behind before an awkward bounce deceived Napier goalkeeper Mark Paston and enabled Nik Viljoen to open the scoring.

The regular season champions continued to create more opportunities, only to go two behind when Darren McClennan took advantage of slack marking.

Wayne Gilbertson pulled one back four minutes later, but the holders deservedly stretched their lead through substitute Geoff Gray.

The biggest threat to Waitakere's hopes of a fourth successive title may come not from a rival club but from Soccer New Zealand's inability to secure a new sponsor for the championship.

The financial backing of the Health Sponsorship Council, which succeeded Rothmans as New Zealand soccer's principal benefactor in 1994, has ended. Without it there are genuine concerns about the competition's continued viability.

*Paul Moon*


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# Crossword

## WIN A PAIR OF *UHLSPORT* GOALKEEPING GLOVES

**The good people at Uhlsport, Europe's leading specialist sportswear company, have kindly donated a pair of top-quality goalkeeping gloves. The first correct entry selected at random after June 1, will win the gloves. Five runners-up will each win an exclusive *WORLD SOCCER* sweatshirt.**

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: **MAY CROSSWORD, *WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford St, London SE1 9LS.**

**CLUES ACROSS**

1 Belgian keeper transferred from Liege to Bordeaux last summer (6)
3 Ex-Leverkusen skipper more recently Stuttgart's libero (4)
7 Rosenborg's £800,000 midfield man from Tromso (9)
9 ... Ramblers, Irish club from St Colman's Park, Cork (4)
10 German coach behind Zamalek's most recent African Champions Cup win (6)
12 Monaco's former Strasbourg stopper born in the Ivory Coast (6)
13 Romanian midfielder in Belgium with Cercle Brugge (4)
16 Hard-tackling Stuttgart midfielder now a part of Vogts' squad (9)
17 Coach sacked by the United Arab Emirates in January (4)
18 Leganes striker who moved up in Spain with Celta Vigo (6)

**CLUES DOWN**

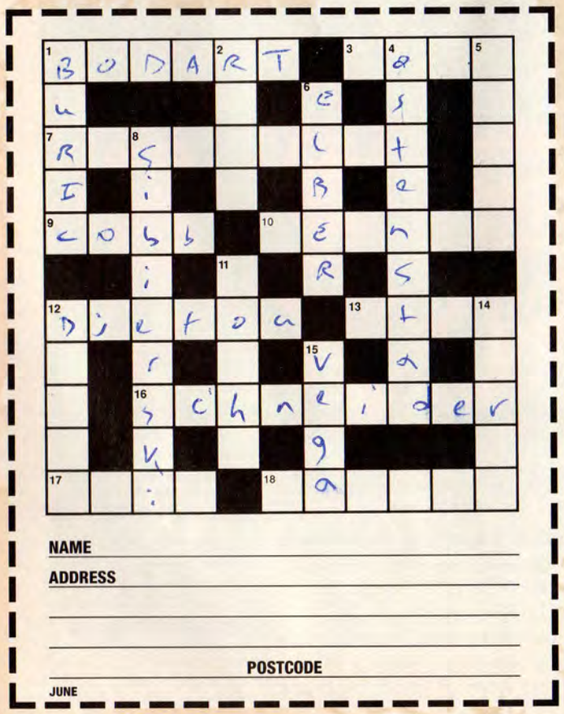
1 Freiburg's Croatian defender (5)
2 Racing Ferrol man who went to Compostela in a mid-season exchange deal (4)
4 Stavangar forward snapped up for Southampton by Graeme Souness (9)
5 One-time Celta coach appointed to Logrones in 1997 (5)
6 Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium Brazilian much wooed by Bayern (5)
8 Guy Roux's left-sided midfielder recruited from Lille (9)
11 26-year-old Porto and Portugal forward (5)
12 Palermo's Moroccan midfielder, Abdelaziz ..... (5)
14 Tallinn club – Estonian League champions in 1992 and 1993 (5)
15 Grasshopper defender who moved on to Cagliari and Spurs (4)

**LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION**

**ACROSS:** 1. Lisztes 7. Liege 8. Porto 9. Neville 10. Mondonico 15. Di Livio 18. Karic 19. Madar 20. Tunisia
**DOWN:** 1. Lopez 2. Sergio 3. Thon 4. Slovan 5. Wetl 6. Perez 11. Divert 12. Cyprus 13. Adams 14. Rocha 16. Lodz 17. Okon

**WINNERS MAY CROSSWORD**

1st Prize Konrad Schmeibing, Schauenburg, Germany.
Runners-up: Artak Amirkhanian, Heerenveen, Netherlands, Robert Allan, Gillingham, Kent, Del Daley, Leytonstone, London, B. Martin, Uxbridge, Middlesex, R.M. Scott, Dundee Scotland.



NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

JUNE

# Diary April 1997

### TUESDAY, APRIL 1

**PORTUGAL:** Sporting fine forward Ricardo Sa Pinto £20,000 for his physical attack on national coach Artur Jorge.
**SWITZERLAND:** FIFA suspends all Portuguese referees from international selection pending the resolution of a row with the Portuguese federation.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

**ACTION:** World Cup action includes a vital win for Scotland over Sweden.
**HUNGARY:** Ferenc Puskas celebrates his 70th birthday by watching an international in his honour against Australia – who spoil the party by winning 3-1 in Budapest.
**ITALY:** Crowd trouble at their match against Lazio lands Vicenza with a one-match home stadium ban and a £60,000 fine.
**MEXICO:** A friendly between a Mexican club and the Jamaican national side is abandoned after a mass punch-up.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 3

**SPAIN:** The day after Albania's under-21 team lose 4-0 to Germany in a European tie in Spain, seven of the players and one coach request political asylum.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4

**FRANCE:** Bordeaux coach Rolland Courbis is sentenced to two years in jail, with six months suspended, for tax fraud…Paris St Germain goalkeeper Bernard Lama is revealed to have tested positive for cannabis.
**PORTUGAL:** Ricardo Sa Pinto is suspended indefinitely from national team selection for his attack on Artur Jorge.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

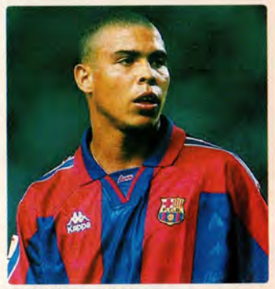
**HOLLAND:** Ajax striker Patrick Kluivert is ruled out for at least six weeks because of renewed knee trouble.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**ACTION:** Canada draw 0-0 at home to El Salvador in the World Cup CONCACAF section. Paul Peschisolido is sent off.
**EGYPT:** The media writes off their national team's prospects of reaching the World Cup finals after a 1-0 defeat by Liberia in neutral Accra, Ghana. Milan striker George Weah scores the decisive goal.
**GERMANY:** FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says he wants top European nations to introduce a system for full-time referees. Blatter also says Germany were first applicants to host the 2006 World Cup but that does not make them favourites.
**NIGERIA:** Five fans are crushed to death in celebrations after the 2-1 World Cup qualifying win over Guinea.

### MONDAY, APRIL 7

**ALBANIA:** The federation announces it does not expect to begin the interrupted league championship until at least May – and then only in certain "secure" towns.
**ARGENTINA:** The Argentinian federation writes to FIFA blaming the Bolivian organisers for the degeneration of the recent World Cup tie in La Paz into a pitch battle.



Lazio target…Ronaldo

**ENGLAND:** Stock Exchange figures suggest the fashion in Manchester United shares is fading…Chelsea's disaffected Italian veteran Gianluca Vialli is reported to be a summer transfer target for Lazio.
**GERMANY:** Borussia Dortmund will be without Brazil centre back Julio Cesar in the Champions League semi-final opener against Manchester United because of a knee injury…Berti Vogts says he fears the Bosman ruling will significantly damage Germany's prospects for maintaining a leading role in international competition.
**ITALY:** Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti says he has made a formal transfer offer to Barcelona for Ronaldo…Torino dismiss coach Mauro Sandreani after a 2-1 home defeat by Padova.
**SPAIN:** Nayim, former Cup-winners Cup hero of Zaragoza, is reported to want to return to England…Betis offer Johan Cruyff £2.2m to take over as coach next season.
**SWITZERLAND:** The United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF appoints Milan's Liberian forward George Weah as an ambassador for sport…Basel appoint Jorg Berger as new coach for next season.
**UNITED STATES:** Colombian veteran Carlos Valderrama is MLS Player of the Week.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 8

**BELGIUM:** Jean-Marc Bosman's bid to stage a benefit game in Barcelona is dropped after opposition from the Spanish federation. An all-star game will be played, on April 27 in Barcelona, but to raise funds for the new international players' union.
**CANADA:** Paul Peschisolido says he has considered quitting the national team.
**ENGLAND:** Middlesbrough's Fabrizio Ravanelli decides on a media blackout after what he claims are misleading reports about the nature of his ankle injury.
**ITALY:** Roma bring 74-year-old Nils Liedholm out of retirement to take over as caretaker from sacked Carlos Bianchi.
**LEBANON:** Trinidad international David Nakhid is arrested after a complaint by his club, Al-Ansar, that he has refused to return an alleged loan of £8,000.
**REP IRELAND:** Newcastle, Celtic and PSV Eindhoven confirm their participation in a pre-season tournament in Dublin alongside Derry City or Shelbourne in July.
**ROMANIA:** Universitatea Craiova appoint former referee Ion Craciunescu as president.
**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA confirms that it will not be choosing between Germany and England when it considers the 2006 World Cup issue at its forthcoming meeting on April 17.





### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

**ACTION:** In the World Cup qualifier, the rearranged match between Zaire and Zambia ends 2-2…Uzbekistan beat China 2-1 in the semi-finals of the Nehru Gold Cup in India…in the UEFA Champions League, Ajax lose 2-1 at home to holders Juventus while Borussia Dortmund squeeze a 1-0 win over Manchester United.
**SCOTLAND:** Scotland will play Wales at Kilmarnock on May 27, their first meeting since the World Cup qualifier in 1985 during which Jock Stein died.
**SPAIN:** Real Madrid's teenage striker Raul Gonzalez signs a new contract worth £1.9m a year with a £30m transfer fee clause…Barcelona bid £20m for Alan Shearer.
**SWITZERLAND:** Brazil, Germany and France are top three in the new monthly FIFA rankings.
**TURKEY:** Sports writers demand an apology from Fenerbahce midfielder Jay Jay Okocha after a skirmish with photographers.
**UNITED STATES:** MLS keeps Paul Caligiuri waiting for permission to join Los Angeles Galaxy…Chicago and Miami are confirmed as new members of MLS next year.
**ZIMBABWE:** National coach Ian Porterfield says he will not extend his six-month lcontract because of what he considers unjustified criticism of his work.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 10

**ACTION:** Iraq reach the final of the Nehru Gold Cup semi-finals, defeating hosts India 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in Cochin…in the semi-final first legs of the Cup-winners Cup, Barcelona are held 1-1 at home by Fiorentina and holders Paris St Germain thump Liverpool 3-0.
**ARGENTINA:** Independiente coach Cesar Menotti says that he is "90 per cent" certain of taking over from Sven-Goran Eriksson next season at Sampdoria.
**ENGLAND:** The Premier League rejects a plea from Manchester United for the season to be extended because of their fixture problems…Derby's Estonia goalkeeper Mart Poom is ruled out until the end of the season after tearing an arm muscle …Belgium defender Philippe Albert says he wants to stay at Newcastle despite interest from Standard Liege and Anderlecht…Manchester United reject a proposal to have a dedicated four hours a night on a cable TV channel…United chief executive Martin Edwards says the club would lose money by reaching the Champions League final because of the huge bonuses on offer to the players.
**GERMANY:** Franz Beckenbauer is confirmed as a member of the German delegation putting its 2006 World Cup case to UEFA.
**GUATEMALA:** FIFA is considered to be on the verge of authorising the reopening of the Mateo Flores stadium, at which 78 fans died in a crowd crush last October.
**ITALY:** Milan midfielder Stefano Eranio turns down an offer from Rangers.
**RUSSIA:** Spartak protest to the Interior Ministry at the behaviour of baton-wielding riot police who attacked fans during a cup game away to second division Noginsk.
**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA rejects an appeal by former referee Kurt Roethlisberger against a life ban for seeking to fix last autumn's Championns League tie between Grasshopper anbd Auxerre.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 11

**ACTION:** China beat India 2-1 in the Nehru Gold Cup third place play-off…UAE beat Bahrain 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier.
**ARGENTINA:** Diego Maradona is admitted to hospital in Buenos Aires after being taken ill after dancing a tango with a former Miss Universe on a Chilean TV chat show…national coach Daniel Passarella denies that he offered to quit after a row with federation president Julio Grondona.
**BRAZIL:** Rio Branco goalkeeper Valtenir is arrested by police after punching referee Kleber Goncalves for sending him off for violent dissent in a 5-1 defeat by Flamengo.
**DENMARK:** Aalborg's Jesper Gronkjaer is the latest Nordic target for Manchester United – who will face competition from Barcelona, Liverpool and Ajax.
**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA reports to FIFA on the life ban imposed on former Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger.
**UNITED STATES:** Eddie Pope becomes a national soccer hero after scoring with a backheel for Washington against New York.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**ACTION:** Iraq beat Uzbekistan 3-1 in the final of the Nehru Gold Cup in Cochin…Strasbourg win their first major prize in 18 years when they beat Bordeaux 6-5 in a penalty shoot-out to secure the League Cup after a 0-0 draw…Bayern Munich extend their lead in Germany by winning 3-2 against Koln…the Japanese J.League opens with Brazilian Mazinho scoring a hat-trick as champions Kashima beat promoted Vissel Kobe 5-2.
**UNITED STATES:** MLS champions DC United take Honduras World Cup skipper Arnold Cruz on loan from Morelia of Mexico.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**ACTION:** In the World Cup qualifying competition, Lebanon and Singapore draw 1-1, Indonesia draw 0-0 with Yemen, and Mexico thrash Jamaica 6-0…Velez Sarsfield beat River Plate 4-2 on penalties in the South American Recopa Final in Tokyo…Chelsea reach the FA Cup Final, beating Wimbledon 3-0, but Middlesbrough and Chesterfield draw 3-3 in a classic thriller…goals by Phillip Cocu and Gilles de Bilde bring PSV a 2-0 win over Ajax in Holland…Juventus' 16-match unbeaten run ends as they lose 3-0 to Udinese …Real Madrid stay clear in Spain after winning 2-0 at Logrones, while Atletico crash 5-2 to Barcelona.

Sampdoria signing…Menotti

**ENGLAND:** Newcastle's Alan Shearer is voted Players' Player of the Year. David Beckham is Young Player of the Year.
**MEXICO:** German veteran Bernd Schuster quits UNAM after being told that he would be used only as a substitute.
**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA decides to investigate alleged match-fixing at last year's European Championship qualifier between Switzerland and Turkey. UEFA president Lennart Johansson says: "I fear this may be only the tip of an iceberg."

### MONDAY, APRIL 14

**ACTION:** Bahrain beat Jordan 1-0 in the World Cup qualifiers.
**BELGIUM:** Jean-Marc Bosman's legal aid benefit match is now scheduled for Brussels by the International Players' Union (AIFP).
**ENGLAND:** Aston Villa fine Australian goal-keeper Mark Bosnich £10,000 for walking out on the team before Saturday's game at Derby…Juninho says he will be happy to stay at Middlesbrough if they qualify for Europe next season but if not, he is not so certain…Ghana's Tony Yeboah says he believes he has played his last first-team game for Leeds…Leicester manager Martin O'Neill says he may need a new goalkeeper because of all Kasey Keller's World Cup commitments…England coach Glenn Hoddle says he favours a magic eye on the goal-line after the last FA Cup controversy.
**GERMANY:** Bayern Munich are set to sign France defender Bixente Lizarazu from Athletic Bilbao on a five-year contract…the mayor of Berlin promises to redevelop the city's Olympic Stadium as part of Germany's bid to host the 2006 World Cup…Schalke goalkeeper Jens Lehmann is targeted by both Valencia and Newcastle.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 15

**ARGENTINA:** Diego Maradona leaves a Buenos Aires hospital after five days of checks for high blood pressure.
**BELGIUM:** The Belgian federation refuses to sanction a benefit match for Bosman.
**BRAZIL:** Sao Paulo sack coach Muricy Ramalho for the second time in a year while ex-World Cup hero Junior becomes the fifth Flamengo coach dismissed in the two-year presidential reign of Kleber Leite.
**ENGLAND:** Eric Cantona purchases a remarkable oil painting which portrays him as a Christ-like figure emerging from a tomb. The painting is on display at the Manchester City Art Gallery.
**GERMANY:** Energie Cottbus become only the second regional league side ever to reach the German cup final after beating Karlsruhe 3-0 in their semi-final.
**HOLLAND:** South African federation sources confirm that President Nelson Mandela has personally invited Ruud Gullit to play for Holland one last time in the friendly against South Africa in June.
**ITALY:** Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi calls on the fans to get behind the team and stop the hooligan behaviour which could cost the club a financial or even points penalty …Udinese's Brazilian striker Marcio Amoroso extends his contract to 2002…Roma forward Francesco Moriero is linked with Everton.
**LIBERIA:** The Sports Ministry launches a public appeal for funds to finance the World Cup qualifier against Tunisia.
**SOUTH AFRICA:** Striker Phil Masinga ends a short-lived national team retirement by accepting selection in the World Cup squad to face Zaire in Lome, Togo.
**UNITED STATES:** Only 1,000 tickets of the capacity 58,000 remain available for the forthcoming World Cup qualifier against Mexico in Foxboro, Boston.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

**ACTION:** Gremio of Brazil beat Sporting Cristal of Peru 2-0 to go top of their group and ensure qualification for the second round of the South American Club Cup.
**ALBANIA:** A series of friendlies are staged to help prepare for the resumption of the league championship after the civil unrest.
**ARGENTINA:** Federation president Julio Grondona is questioned for 90 minutes by members of Congress over the national team's World Cup brawl in Bolivia. National coach Daniel Passarella refuses to attend …Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta is again omitted from the World Cup squad.
**BELGIUM:** Anderlecht's Nigeria defender Celestine Babayaro agrees terms to join Chelsea at the season's end.
**BRAZIL:** Dunga, captain of Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning side, is recalled for the first time in two years for the friendly against Mexico in Miami on April 30.
**ENGLAND:** FA officials are confident of UEFA further softening its attitude when they meet the European and German federation officials to discuss the bidding process for the 2006 World Cup…an extra-time goal from Steve Claridge earns Leicester a 1-0 victory over Middlesbrough in the League Cup Final replay.
**GREECE:** AEK Athens win the Cup Final by defeating Panathinaikos in a penalty shootout after a goalless draw.
**ITALY:** Gabriel Batistuta breaks his right wrist after slipping and falling down stairs at his home…champions Milan and Napoli are both fined for crowd misbehaviour – Milan £20,000 and Napoli £10,000…veteran coach Nevio Scala decides, after all, to stay on as boss of Perugia.
**REP IRELAND:** Veteran Crystal Palace midfielder Ray Houghton is recalled for the World Cup qualifier against Romania.
**TURKEY:** Kocaelispor win the Cup for the first time by defeating favourites Trabzonspor 1-0.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 17

**ACTION:** Thailand beat Kuwait 3-1 in a friendly in Bangkok.
**BRAZIL:** Mario Zagallo provokes a storm of protest when he recalls the Vasco da Gama forward Edmundo. Brazil's squad against Mexico: Taffarel, Carlos Germano; Cafu, Roberto Carlos, Andre Luiz, Russo, Marcio Santos, Goncalves, Andre Cruz, Celio Silva; Dunga, Mauro Silva, Cesar Sampaio, Flavio Conceicao, Denilson, Djalminha, Leonardo; Ronaldo, Romario, Edmundo, Paulo Nunes, Donizete…even Vasco da Gama fans chant "fix" as their own team score twice in injury time to beat

Volta Redonda 2-1 in a Rio championship match after which referee Carlos Alberto Dutra is chased from the pitch.
**CANADA:** Canada protest to FIFA that the United States fielded an ineligible player, German-born David Wagner, in their World Cup qualifying tie.
**FRANCE:** World Cup organisers may face a major legal battle over laws which mean beer manufacturer Anheuser-Busch, one of the multi-million-pound event sponsors, will not be able to use pitch perimeter adverts.
**GUATEMALA:** Honduras beat Panama 5-0 and Guatemala draw 1-1 with Costa Rica on the first matchday of the Central American Nations Cup – the first time competitive international football has been played in the redeveloped Mateo Flores stadium.
**GERMANY:** Giovanni Trapattoni says he wants to stay on next season at Bayern.
**ITALY:** Roma's Argentinian coach Carlos Bianchi blames coaching xenophobia and media campaigns for the fact that five of the six coaches sacked this season are foreigners…Milan's out-of-favour Roberto Baggio says his hopes of regaining his national team place for the 1998 World Cup depend on a transfer abroad.
**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA accept grudgingly that England has a perfect right to bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 18

**ARGENTINA:** Diego Maradona is close to agreeing a new contract with Boca Juniors president Mauricio Macri.
**BELGIUM:** The European Commission rules that Celtic are not due a transfer fee from the departure of John Collins for Monaco even though Monte Carlo is, technically, not a full member of the EU.
**ENGLAND:** Leeds' French midfielder Pierre Laurent says he moved "only for the money"…Wimbledon midfielder Vinnie Jones serves writs on his club and the Premier League demanding the option of a free transfer to another English club when his contract expires.
**FRANCE:** A second dope test confirms a positive test for marijuana against Paris St Germain goalkeeper Bernard Lama.
**GERMANY:** DFB president Egidius Braun complains, in the wake of the UEFA summit over the 2006 World Cup, that he felt he had been misled by the FA over its intentions…Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer says Jurgen Klinsmann is not yet ready to take on the responsibility of managership – after speculation in the British media. Klinsmann says he has received an offer from Parma.
**GREECE:** AEK's Georgian forward Temur Ketsbaia agrees to join Newcastle in the summer.
**HOLLAND:** Outgoing champions Ajax will sign Roda striker Gerald Sibon on a five-year contract end as replacement for Milan-bound Patrick Kluivert.
**ITALY:** Inter president Massimo Moratti confirms that Napoli's Luigi Simoni will take over from Roy Hodgson as coach next season…Real Madrid's Fabio Capello and Bayern Munich's Giovanni Trapattoni are reported likely to return home in the summer to Milan and Roma respectively.
**SPAIN:** Real Madrid coach Fabio Capello says he will not make a decision on his future until at least the middle of May…national coach Javier Clemente calls up

**Recall…Edmundo**

Atletico Madrid defender Juan Lopez – even though he has played only seven league games this season.
**SWITZERLAND:** FIFA, confirming UEFA's life ban on match-fix referee Kurt Roethlisberger, says it will investigate allegations concerning the World Cup qualifying match between Switzerland and Norway…UEFA says its coefficient calculations ensure that both the Turkish champions and runners-up will compete in next season's expanded Champions League; UEFA also decides to maintain the controversial Intertoto Cup in its present form.
**TURKEY:** Beaten cup finalists Trabzonspor fine all of their players £10,000 for a substandard performance.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**ACTION:** Jordan beat Bahrain 4-1 in a World Cup Asian zone group 3 qualifier…Manchester United win 3-1 away to Liverpool…Guingamp beat Montpellier 2-0 to reach the French cup final for the first time…Bayern Munich extend their lead in Germany after drawing 1-1 away to Borussia Dortmund…PSV Eindhoven thrash De Graafschap 5-0 to regain the lead in Holland…Torpedo Moscow, built around a nucleus of former CSKA players, beat their 'old' club 5-0 in the Russian league.
**ITALY:** Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti says he believes his club are still leaders in the bid to try to prise Ronaldo away from Barcelona…Milan president Silvio Berlusconi denies suggestions that he may be on the verge of sacking coach Arrigo Sacchi.
**POLAND:** Hooligans set buildings on fire and 10 policemen are injured after fighting following a 1-1 draw in Warsaw between leaders Legia and fifth-placed Polonia.
**SWITZERLAND:** General secretary Sepp Blatter says FIFA remains unhappy that the French authorities insist they must keep fences for the 1998 World Cup finals.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**ACTION:** Cambodia lose 1-0 at home to Yemen in the Asian section of the World Cup qualifying competition…the United States are held 2-2 at home in Foxboro by Mexico…Belgian champions Brugge win 1-0 away to Anderlecht…Juventus stay six points clear in Italy after Udinese win 2-0 away to second-placed Parma…Portuguese champions Porto are held 2-2 at home by struggling Rio Ave.
**BELGIUM:** Uncapped midfielder Filip Haagdoren becomes the fifth Lierse player called up by Belgium coach Georges Leekens.
**GERMANY:** Matthias Sammer is ruled out of Dortmund's Champions League semi-final return against Manchester United.
**SOUTH AFRICA:** Local media reports that striker Benedict McCarthy is discussing a five-year contract with Ajax.

## MONDAY, APRIL 21

**DENMARK:** Captain Michael Laudrup returns to Denmark's 18-man squad for the World Cup qualifier against Slovenia in Copenhagen on April 30.
**ENGLAND:** Arsenal line up Bordeaux midfielder Ibrahim Ba…Tottenham release Israel striker Ronny Rosenthal…Alan Shearer returns to the England team for the World Cup qualifier against Georgia.
**GERMANY:** Relegation-threatened St Pauli dismiss coach Uli Maslo…Stuttgart say Brazilian striker Giovane Elber will join Bayern Munich in the close season with Nigerian Jonathan Akpoborie arriving from relegation-threatened Hansa Rostok.
**HOLLAND:** Heerenveen's top-scoring Denmark forward Jon Dahl Tomasson can add Aston Villa to his list of admirers.
**ITALY:** Cup finalists Napoli dismiss coach Luigi Simon…Atalanta's Filippo Inzaghi is the only uncapped player in the squad for the World Cup qualifier against Poland.
**POLAND:** Police demand the closure of the Polonia stadium after 37 officers were injured, three seriously, in clashes with hooligans at the weekend match against Legia. Police made 76 arrests.
**RUSSIA:** National coach Boris Ignatyev includes uncapped CSKA striker Vladimir Kulik, Zhemchuzhina midfielder Alexander Gorshkov, Vitaly Abramov from league leaders Rotor Volgograd and Sergei Grishin of Dynamo Moscow in the World Cup squad to face Luxembourg.
**SPAIN:** Bobby Robson's future at Barcelona appears in greater jeopardy after president Jose Luis Nunez says he expects Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal to join the club next season…Victor Munoz is sacked as coach of second division promotion favourites Mallorca.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 22

**ACTION:** United Arab Emirates beat Bahrain 3-0 in the World Cup qualifiers…Inter (beating Monaco on aggregate) and Schalke (beating Tenerife in extra time) reach the final of the UEFA Cup.
**ARGENTINA:** Diego Maradona signs a new short-term contract with Boca Juniors taking him through to the end of the year.
**BELARUS:** Belarus's 20-man squad for their World Cup qualifier away to Latvia includes 10 Russia-based players.
**BRAZIL:** Sports Minister Pele says the Brazilian championship and club administration badly needs streamlining.
**CROATIA:** The Croatia squad for the World Cup qualifier against Greece in Salonika features only seven home-based players.
**ENGLAND:** Zimbabwe goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar agrees a contract extension with second division Plymouth…Arsene Wenger defends Dennis Bergkamp against accusations of being a "diver".
**FRANCE:** The international players union says that the Bosman benefit match may now take place on April 27 in Barcelona's Olympic stadium after all.
**GERMANY:** Stuttgart striker Giovanne Elber says he hopes to use his forthcoming transfer to Bayern Munich as a launch pad to gain a place in Brazil's 1998 World Cup squad…Berti Vogts includes three uncapped players in his squad for the World Cup qualifying tie against Ukraine: Leverkusen libero Jens Nowotny and midfielders Sven Kmetsch and Jens Jeremies, of Hamburg and 1860 Munich…Swiss winger Alain Sutter agrees to transfer from Freiburg to Dallas Burn in MLS.
**SPAIN:** Former Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff loses a legal claim for slander against club president Jose Luis Nunez…Real Madrid coach Fabio Capello flies to Milan for a family break insisting he will not answer any questions about his future.
**SWEDEN:** Sweden recall Leicester's League Cup winning hero Pontus Kamark for the World Cup qualifier against Scotland.
**SWITZERLAND:** Striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz returns from injury to the national squad for the World Cup qualifier against Hungary.

## WEDNESAY, APRIL 23

**ACTION:** Juventus beat Ajax 4-1 (6-2 on aggregate) and Borussia Dortmund again win 1-0 over Manchester United in their Champions League semi-final returns…Costa Rica beat Honduras 4-0 in the final round of the Central American Cup of Nations. The hosts beat El Salvador 1-0…Gremio lose surprisingly by 2-1 in the Libertadores second round to Guarani of Paraguay but holders River Plate draw 3-3 away to fellow Argentinian club Racing.
**ARGENTINA:** Diego Maradona signs back with Boca Juniors "for the last and best time".
**ENGLAND:** Unhappy Leeds striker Tony Yeboah attacks the Ghana federation after being dropped from the World Cup squad
**ITALY:** Parma propose to sign Tomas Brolin from Leeds on a full contract after his three-month loan spell…Paul Ince says he has no intention of thinking about his future until after Inter's UEFA Cup Final duel with Schalke…further media speculation pursues Real Madrid coach Fabio Capello during his holiday back in Milan.
**POLAND:** Sokol Tychy, 17th in the top division, quit the league championship following a 6-0 thrashing by Gornik Zabrze.
**SOUTH AFRICA:** South African federation officials reaffirm their intention of bidding to host the 2006 World Cup.
**SPAIN:** Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez says a new contract extension offer has been agreed with Ronaldo worth £65m.

## THRURSDAY, APRIL 24

**ACTION:** Barcelona win a rough-house of a Cup-winners Cup semi-final return 2-0 away to Fiorentina and thus 3-1 on aggregate. Liverpool win (2-0) and lose (3-2 on agg) to Paris St Germain.
**BRAZIL:** FIFA president Joao Havelange says that future World Cups will be concentrated in Europe unless delegates from other regions stop in-fighting.

**Bayern bound…Giovane Elber**

**COLOMBIA:** Atletico Nacional transfer-list goalkeeper Rene Higuita for missing training.
**ITALY:** Milan forward Roberto Baggio is surprisingly called up to Italy's World Cup squad as cover for injured Chelsea striker Gianfranco Zola…Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez confirms that the club have received offers from Nike, Kappa, Reebok and Adidas to help keep Brazilian superstar Ronaldo under contract.
**ROMANIA:** Police report 27 Steaua fans having been arrested after crowd trouble following a 6-2 home win over Jiul Petrosani.
**SPAIN:** Bernd Krauss, former Borussia Monchengladbach coach, agrees to take over at Real Sociedad next season.
**SWITZERLAND:** UEFA says it will study a proposal from Juventus that the Champions League finals be played in one country.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 25

**ENGLAND:** Manchester United's Jordi Cruyff is linked with a possible summer move to Bayer Leverkusen; United deny speculation that Eric Cantona may be released after the Champions League semi-final failure…Newcastle agree to release French winger David Ginola…Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp, who hates flying, sets off on a 20-hour drive, with the help of a chauffeur, to play for Holland in San Marino.
**GERMANY:** Schalke fear Czech players Radoslav Latal and Jiri Nemec may miss the second leg of their UEFA Cup final with Internazionale on May 21 because they are due to play for their country on the same day, against Slovakia in Bratislava.
**ROMANIA:** Universitatea Craiova sack former national coach Mircea Radulescu following a 3-0 defeat by Universitatea Cluj.
**SOUTH AFRICA:** The South African FA appoints Danny Jordaan, its current vice-president, as chief executive.
**SPAIN:** Johan Cruyff confirms he will return to Barcelona football action on Sunday as manager of the Europe XI playing in the Bosman benefit match…Tenerife coach Jupp Heynckes says he will quit the beaten UEFA Cup semi-finalists at the season's end – fuelling speculation that he may succeed Fabio Capello, said to be unhappy at Real Madrid…Nike denies that it would even consider joining other sportswear companies in a joint deal with Ronaldo.
**UNITED STATES:** MLS clubs try to step up their international profile by inviting leading foreign teams over for friendlies.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 26

**ACTION:** In World Cup qualifying competition, Egypt win 3-2 away to Namibia to keep Tunisia's hopes on hold, Morocco win 1-0 away to Sierra Leone and, in Asia, the United Arab Emirates defeat Jordan 2-0 while Kuwait open their account with a 1-0 win in Singapore…Costa Rica beat El Salvador and Guatemala defeat Honduras both by 1-0 to reach the final of the Central American Cup…Monaco are kept waiting to celebrate their prospective French championship success when they are held 1-1 by Marseille…Bayern Munich take a further decisive step towards the German title when they beat Fortuna Dusseldorf 5-0.
**ITALY:** The league rearranges the fixtures schedule so that Serie A will end on June 1 not a fortnight later as had been originally decided – clearing the decks for the national team's participation in the World Cup warm-up tournament in France in mid-June.
**URUGUAY:** Nacional agree the sale of forward Alvaro Recoba to Internazionale of Italy for 3million.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 27

**ACTION:** Cambodia draw 1-1 with Indonesia in a World Cup qualifier, Tunisia move to the brink of the finals with a 2-0 win over Liberia which ends George Weah's dreams. In CONCACAF, Canada are held goalless by Jamaica…Diego Maradona makes his European comeback as the Rest of the World XI recover from 2-0 down to beat Europe 4-3 in the controversial international players' union game in Barcelona.
**FRANCE:** Patrice Loko scores four goals as Paris Saint-Germain thrash bottom club Nice 5-0 to maintain their mathematical hopes of catching Monaco.
**ITALY:** Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti says he has virtually given up on signing Brazil's Ronaldo from Barcelona and will go for Sevilla's Matias Almeyda instead.
**SCOTLAND:** Celtic's Paolo Di Canio is voted Players' Player of the Year.

## MONDAY, APRIL 28

**RUSSIA:** Coach Valery Gazzayev of Alania Vladikavkaz is persuaded to withdraw his resignation.
**CANADA:** The CSA learns – to its dismay – from the German federation that the player thought ineligible to line up with World Cup rivals the United States is not the one suspected. The CSA has confused former German junior international Uwe Wagner with namesake David Wagner.
**SPAIN:** Real Madrid's Italian coach Fabio Capello ends weeks of speculation by telling a local radio station that he will quit at the season's end…meanwhile Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez says he wants Bobby Robson to stay for another season and see out his contract.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 29

**ACTION:** Slovakia beat Iceland 3-1 in a friendly in Trnava…a full programme of European under-21 ties takes place.
**ENGLAND:** Sunil Gulati, Major League Soccer deputy commissioner, tells a London sales conference that the US' aim is to reach a standard enabling them to win the World Cup by 2010…Wrexham, Swansea and Cardiff agree to play both in England, as usual, and also in a new Welsh Clubs Championship next season…Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson flies to Germany to watch Kiev's Andrei Shevchenko playing against Germany…Manchester City resign themselves to losing striker Mikhail Kavelashvili because his work permit cannot be renewed…Chelsea learn through the Italian media that Gianfranco Zola may ask to be released for a return to Italy next year – halfway through his four-year contract…Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the former Lord Chief Justice who reported on the Hillsborough disaster, dies.
**FRANCE:** Monaco virtually ensure the French championship when they beat Strasbourg 2-0 with goals from Sonny Anderson and Victor Ikpeba…Auxerre agree to sell Algerian international midfielder Moussa Saib to Arsenal in preference to bids from Parma and Real Sociedad.
**ISRAEL:** National coach Shlomo Sharf drops five players from his squad for the World Cup qualifier against Cyprus because they broke curfew to attend a cinema without permission.
**ITALY:** Roma star Jonas Thern says he will have to delay travelling to Glasgow to complete negotiations on his transfer to Rangers because of his Italian club's poor run of recent results.
**MEXICO:** Monterrey's international midfielder David Patino is transferred to Colorado Rapids of the MLS while Leon striker Damian Alvarez agrees to move north to join Dallas Burn.
**POLAND:** Widzew Lodz consider a £2.5million offer from Liverpool for forward Marek Citko.
**SPAIN:** Coach Fabio Capello confirms at a two-minute press conference that he will leave league leaders Real Madrid at the season's end, blames a breakdown in communication with president Lorenzo Sanz and denies claims that he had been negotiating with Barcelona behind Madrid's back.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

**SWITZERLAND:** Sandor Puhl of Hungary is appointed by UEFA to referee the

**Adios Madrid…Fabio Capello**

Champions League Final between Juventus and Borussia Dortmund…UEFA fines Fiorentina £35,000 and bans the Stadio Comunale for two matches after crowd trouble at the Cup-winners semi-final against Barcelona; UEFA also fines FC Porto £40,000 for security failures to blame for crowd trouble at their Champions League quarter-final against Manchester United…FIFA hands down a string of World Cup disciplinary punishments including suspensions of two games for Faustino Asprilla and four games for Jose Luis Chilavert following trouble at the Colombia v Paraguay tie.

## OBITUARIES

**HELMUT GRASHOFF**, general manager of Borussia Monchengladbach in the club's greatest era of the 1970s, has died aged 68. Grashoff was an executive director of the club from 1962 to 1991.

**PETER TAYLOR**, former Lord Chief Justice, dies aged 66 - acclaimed as the man who changed the face of English football. Taylor conducted the inquiry into the 1989 Hillsborough disaster in which 96 Liverpool fans were crushed to death. His report rejected the then-fashionable demand for membership cards but recommended the top-level switch to all-seater stadia. This led, in turn, to the game moving upmarket in socio-economic terms and into position to take massive financial advantage of the simultaneous tele-sport explosion.

**Romania hit eight…Turkey beat Holland in Bursa…Paraguay win in Colombia in World Cup qualifiers…Iraq win Nehru Cup…Six for Zamorano**

# INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

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**Poland** – Italy (Apr 2) (Apr 30)
**Portugal** – Northern Ireland (Mar 29)
**Rep Ireland** – Macedonia (Apr 2), Romania (Apr 30)
**Romania** – Liechtenstein (Mar 29), Lithuania (Apr 2), Rep Ireland (Apr 30)
**Russia** –Cyprus (Mar 29), Luxembourg (Apr 30)
**San Marino** – Holland (Mar 29) (Apr 30)
**Scotland** – Estonia (Mar 29), Austria (Apr 2), Sweden (Apr 30)
**Sierra Leone** – Ghana (Apr 5)
**Singapore** – Lebanon (Apr 13)
**Slovakia** – Malta (Mar 31), Iceland (Apr 29)
**Slovenia** – Croatia (Apr 2), Denmark (Apr 30)
**South Africa** – Congo (Apr 6)
**Spain** – Yugoslavia (Apr 30)
**Sweden** – France (Apr 2), Scotland (Apr 30)
**Switzerland** – Latvia (Apr 2), Hungary (Apr 30)
**Thailand** – Kuwait (Apr 17)
**Togo** – **Gabon** (Mar 30), Angola (Apr 6)
**Tunisia** – Namibia (Apr 6)
**Turkey** – Holland (Apr 2), Belgium (Apr 30)
**Ukraine** – Albania (Mar 29), Northern Ireland (Apr 2), Germany (Apr 30)
**United Arab Emirates** – Jordan (Apr 8) (Apr 20), Bahrain (Apr 11)
**United States** – Mexico (Apr 20)
**Uruguay** – Venezuela (Apr 2), Paraguay (Apr 30)
**Uzbekistan** – India (Apr 4), China (Apr 6) (Apr 9), Ghana (Apr 7), Iraq (Apr 12)
**Venezuela** – Uruguay (Apr 2), Chile (Apr 29)
**Wales** – Belgium (Mar 29)
**Zaire** – Zambia (Apr 9)
**Zambia** – Zaire (Apr 9)
**Zimbabwe** – Cameroon (Apr 6)
**Yemen** – Indonesia (Apr 13), Cambodia (Apr 20)
**Yugoslavia** – Czech Rep (Apr 2), Spain (Apr 30)


## SATURDAY, MARCH 29

*Mar 29 - Split - WC qual*
**Croatia 1** (Suker 50)
**Denmark 1** (B Laudrup 82)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 34,000. **Ref:** Ceccarini (It)
**Croatia:** Ladi - Kovac, Jarni, Soldo, Jerkan, Bilic, Asanovic (Pralija 84), Prosinecki, Suker, Boban, Boksic (Vlaovic 75).
**Denmark:** Schmeichel - Laursen, Rieper, Hogh (Schjonbjerg 14), Heintze, Helweg, Frandsen (Tomasson 70), Thomsen, Nielsen, Beck (Pedersen 57), B Laudrup.

*Mar 29 - Trieste - WC qual*
**Italy 3** (Maldini 24, Zola 44, Vieri 49)
**Moldova 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fr)
**Italy:** Peruzzi, Costacurta, Nesta (Cannavaro 32), Ferrara, Maldini, Di Livio (Eranio 74), Albertini, Di Matteo, D Baggio, Zola, Vieri (Padovano 67).
**Moldova:** Romanenco - Culibaba, Toloconicov, Testimetanu, Fistican, Spinu (Suharev 46), Sischin, Epureanu, Curtean, Clescenco, Gaidamascuik (Cebotari 61).

*Mar 29 - Kilmarnock - WC qual*
**Scotland 2** (Boyd 25, Meet og 53)
**Estonia 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 17,996. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
**Scotland:** Leighton - Burley, Boyd, Calderwood, Hendry (B McKinlay 64), T McKinlay, Gemmill, McStay, Jackson (McGinlay 83), McAllister, Gallacher.
**Estonia:** Poom - Lemsalu, Kirs, Hohlov-Simson, Zelinski (Arbeter 81), Meet, Pari (Rooba 55), Kristal, Reim, Oper, Vilkmae (Leetma 72).

*Mar 29 - Paralimni - WC qual*
**Cyprus 1** (Gogic 31)
**Russia 1** (Simutenkov 32)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Roca (Sp)
**Cyprus:** Petrides - Theodotou, Pittas, Andreou, Misos, Larkou, Papavassilou, Malekkos, Gogic, Ioannou, Timotheou.
**Russia:** Cherchesov - Popov, Chuganov, Tsimbalar, Tetradze, Karpin, Onopko, Kanchelskis, Mostovoi, Kolivanov, Simuntenkov.

*Mar 29 - Cardiff - WC qual*
**Wales 1** (Speed 67)
**Belgium 2** (Crasson 24, Staelens 44)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Fallstrom (Swe)
**Wales:** Southall - Pembridge, Symons, Speed, Page, Blackmore, Jones, Giggs, Horne, Saunders (Hartson 64), M Hughes.
**Belgium:** Dewilde - Crasson, Van Meir, De Roover, Smidts, Staelens, Van der Elst, Lemoine, Van Kerckhoven, L Mpenza (M Mpenza 64), Oliveira (Scifo 89).

*Mar 29 - Amsterdam - WC qual*
**Holland 4** (Kluivert 44, F De Boer 58, 90, Van Hooydonk 82)
**San Marino 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Klein (Isr)
**Holland:** Van der Sar - Reiziger, F De Boer, Stam, Numan, Winter (Overmars 33), Jonk (Witschge 73), Seedorf (Van Hooydonk 73), Cocu, Kluivert, Bergkamp.
**San Marino:** F Gasperoni - Gobbi (V Valentini 64), Vanucci (Gennari 78), M Valentini, Matteoni, Guerra, Muccioli, Mazza, Montagna (Bacciocchi 81), Francini, B Gasperoni.

*Mar 29 - Bucharest - WC qual*
**Romania 8** (Moldovan 10, Popescu 28, 30, 58, 82, Hagi 47, Petrescu 49, Craioveanu 71)
**Liechtenstein 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Laskus (Lith)
**Romania:** Dumitru Stingaciu (Prunea 63) - Petrescu (Filipescu 70), Prodan, Dobos, Gilca, Popescu, Selymes, Ilie, Moldovan (Craioveanu 63), Hagi, Vladoiu.
**Liechtenstein:** Heeb - Stocklasa, Hefti, Hanselmann, Zech, Hasler, D Telser (D Frick 50), C Frick (Ackermann 73), Schadler, Klaunzer (M Telser 82), Ospelt.

*Mar 29 - Granada, Spain - WC qual*
**Albania 0**
**Ukraine 1** (Rebrov 39)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 9,395. **Ref:** McDermott (NI)
**Albania:** Strakosha - Dema (Haxhi 46), Daja, Abazaj, R Vata, Kacaj, Bozgo (Bujhaj 73), Bellai, (Jhpuza 81), Kola, Rraklli, F Vata.
**Ukraine:** Suslov - Starostyak, Bejenar, Golovko, Vachtchuk, Mikhailenko (Kardach 71), Orbu, Kalitvintsev (Kriventsov 85), Kossovskii, Shevchenko, Rebrov.

*Mar 29 - Belfast -WC qual*
**Northern Ireland 0**
**Portugal 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** Ref: Cesari (It)
**N Ireland:** Wright - Gillespie, Hill, Morrow, Taggart, Nolan, Lomas, Lennon, Magilton, Dowie, Quinn (McMahon 69).
**Portugal:** Vítor Baia - Paulinho Santos, Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Dimas (Cadete 62), Sergio Conceicao, Paulo Sousa, Rui Costa, Oceano (Pedro Martins 62), Luis Figo, Joao Pinto.

*Mar 29 - Wembley - intl friendly*
**England 2** (Sheringham pen 19, Fowler 56).
**Mexico 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 48,076. **Ref:** Pereira (Por)
**England:** James - Keown, Pearce, Southgate, Batty (Redknapp 54), Le Saux, R Lee, Ince, McManaman (Butt 69), Fowler, Sheringham (I Wright 38).
**Mexico:** Rios (Pineda 58) - Pardo, Suarez, Davino, R Ramirez, Coyote (N Ramirez), Alfaro, Galindo (Bernal 55), Garcia, Hermosillo (Pelaez 46), Zague Alves (Hernandez 46).

## SUNDAY, MARCH 30

*Mar 30 - Cochin - Nehru Cup*
**Iraq 2** (Majeed 30, Jabbar 60)
**China 0 HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 10,000

*Mar 30 - Tbilisi - Friendly*
**Georgia 7** (S Arveladze, 12, 53, 67, Kinkladze pen 45, A Arveladze 58, 60, Kavelashvili 81)
**Armenia 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Russia).
**Georgia:** Zoidze (Tokonidze 54) - Lobjanidze, Tskhadadze, Chelia (Cheghiladze 60), Tchikhradze (Gogitchiachvili 46), Nemsadze, Ketsbaia (A Arveladze 56), Gotiachvili, Djamarauli (Kavelashvili 46), Kinkladze (Kakhokidze 60), S Arveladze (Mouchiri 65).
**Armenia:** Avakian - Soukiassian, Derzakarian (Tonoyan 46), V Khatchatrian (Gsypeyan 46), Vardanian (Essayan 46), Hovsepian, Mikhitarian, Ter-Petrossian (Manoukian 56), Petrossian (R Khatchatrian 60), Assadourian, A Avetissian.

*Mar 30 - Libreville - intl friendly*
**Gabon 2** (Kasa Ngoma 12pen, Tamboucha 30)
**Togo 1** (Oyawole 27)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Diramba (Gabon).
**Gabon:** Mendome - Yala, Amegasse, Kassa Ngoma, Nsi Akoue, Mouloungui, Poulangoye (Engo 28), Tamboucha (Otomo 82), Ndong Nze (Ogouerowo 70), R Mahon, Nzue Nguema.
**Togo:** Mibombe Wake - Kodjovi, Gagniou, Agbobly, James Dick Yao, Balogou Koudjo, Oyawole, Dossou Mawali (Dov Akon 81).

## MONDAY, MARCH 31

*Mar 31 - La Valletta - WC qual*
**Malta 0**
**Slovakia 2** (Jancula 38, Tittel 90)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Kowalczyk (Pol)
**Malta:** Muscat - Cauchi, Chetcuti, Attard, Debono, Saliba, Agius, Turner, Sultana (Suda 65), Brincat, Carabott.
**Slovakia:** Vencel - Kozak, Karhan, Zeman, Spilar, Tittel, Slovak (Zvara 57), Simon, Jancula (Majoros 50), Semenik, Moravcik.

*Mar 31 - Luxembourg - WC qual*
**Luxembourg 0**
**Israel 3** (Zohar 11, 80, Banin 56)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 6,066. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
**Luxembourg:** Koch - Vanek, Deville (Amodio 65), Birsens, Strasser, Saibene, Holtz (Posing 75), Thill, Langers, Cardoni, Groff.
**Israel:** Cohen - Halfon, Amsalem, Shelah, Benado, Rosenthal (Klinger 83), Banin, Revivo, Berkovic (Ben-Shimon 46), Zohar, Ohana (Nizrachi 46).

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

*Apr 2 - Sarajevo - WC qual*
**Bosnia 0**
**Greece 1** (Franzeskos 74)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fr)
**Bosnia:** Dedic - Sabic (Brkic 86), Besirevic (Music 79), Ramcic, Katana, Jaserevic, Glavas (Baljic 79), Halilovic, Kodro, Salihamidsic, Bolic.
**Greece:** Atmatsidis - Apostolakis, Karataidis, Ouzounidis, Kalitzakis, Kursaidis, Zagorakis, Nikolaidis, Kostis (Georgatos 46), Tsartas (Franzeskos 67), Donis (G H Georgiadis 87).

*Apr 2 - Split - WC qual*
**Croatia 3** (Prosinecki 33, Boban 43, 60)
**Slovenia 3** (Gilha 45, 65, 67)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Durkin (Eng)
**Croatia:** Gabric (Mrmic 46) - Simic, Jerkan, Bilic, Asanovic, Prosinecki, Vlaovic (Pralija 68), Boban, Boksic, Juric, Cvitanovic.
**Slovenia:** Boskovic - Englaro, Srebrnic, Krizan, Rudonja, Novak, Ceh (Sesler 68), Zahovic, Gajser (Karic 46), Udovic (Siljak 46), Gilha.

*Apr 2 - Chorzow - WC qual*
**Poland 0**
**Italy 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Nielsen (Den)
**Poland:** Wozniak - Skrzypek, Zielinski, Wojtala, Waldoch, Citko, Swierczewski (Kaluzny 60), Juskowiak, Nowak (Sokolowski 44), Ledwon.
**Italy:** Peruzzi - Ferrara, Maldini, D Baggio, Cannavaro, Costacurta, Di Livio, Fuser (Carboni 84), Vieri, Di Matteo, Zola.

*Apr 2 - Baku - WC qual*
**Azerbaijan 1** (Suleymanov 80pen)
**Finland 2** (Litmanen 25, Paatelainen 66)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
**Azerbaijan:** Zhidkov - Agaev, Isajev (M Gurbanov 80), Hkrmedov, Lychkin, Abusov, Guseynov, Gulijev, G Gurbanov, Suleymanov, Yunuyov.
**Finland:** Niemi - Nuorela, Makela (Rissanen 73), Hyypia, Koskinen, Nurmela, Mahlio, Litmanen (Myrry 73), Wiss.

*Apr 2 - Glasgow - WC qual*
**Scotland 2** (Gallacher 24, 77)
**Austria 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 43,295. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
**Scotland:** Leighton - Burley, Calderwood, Hendry, Boyd, T McKinlay, Gallacher (McCoist 84), McAllister (McStay 90), Lambert, Jackson (McGinlay 75), Collins.
**Austria:** Konsel - Feiersinger, Aigner (Ogris 81), Pfeffer, Schottel (Kogler 46), Schopp, Heraf, Herzog, Wetl, Stoger (Bastic 67), Polster.

*Apr 2 - Sofia - WC qual*
**Bulgaria 4** (Borimirov 2, Kostadinov 36, 45, Yordanov 66)
**Cyprus 1** (Okhas 61)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swz)
**Bulgaria:** Zdravkov - Kishssbev, Ivanov, Ginchev, Yordanov, Yankov (Mitov 80), Kostadinov, Borimirov (Nankov 58), Donkov (Videlov 73), Balakov, Iliev.
**Cyprus:** Petrides - Theodotou, Pittas (Melanarkitis 77), Yiannaki, Misos, Larcou, Papavassilliou, Engomitis, Alexandrou (Okkas 46), Charalambous, Timotheou (Hadjiloukas 73).

*Apr 2 - Prague -WC qual*
**Czech Rep 1** (Bejbl 75)
**Yugoslavia 2** (Mijatovic 28, Milosevic 90)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 19,137. **Ref:** Batta (Fr)
**Czech Rep:** Miklosko - Latal (Berger 46), Repka, Nedved (Frydek 83), Kadlec, Hornak, Cizek, Poborsky, Kuka, Smicer (Siegl 67), Bejbl.
**Yugoslavia:** Kralj - Mirkovic, Govedarica, Jokanovic, Djukic, Mihajlovic (Brnovic 14), Jugovic, Savicevic (Milosevic 82), Mijatovic, Stojkovic (Drulovic 86), Nadj.

*Apr 2 - Bursa - WC qual*
**Turkey 1** (Sukur 52)
**Holland 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Sp)
**Turkey:** Rustu - Ilker, Bulent, Alpay, Ogun, Taylun, Tolunay, Tugay (Tayfur 80), Abdullah (Oguz 87), Hakan Sukur, Celil (Hakan Unsal 70).
**Holland:** Van der Sar - Reiziger (Overmars 80), Stam, F De Boer, Numan, Jonk, Winter (Van Hooydonk 66), R De Boer, Kluivert, Seedorf, Cocu.

*Apr 2 - Skopje - WC qual*
**Macedonia 3** (Stojkovski pen29, pen44, Hristov 60)
**Rep Ireland 2** (McLoughlin 8, Kelly 78)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (It)
**Macedonia:** Celeski - Milosavov, Stojkovski, Markovski, Nikolovski, Sedloski, Josev, Glavevski (Micevski 87), Hristov (Beganovic 79), Sainovski (Georgioski 82), Sakiri.
**Ireland:** A Kelly - Irwin, Phelan (Harte 56), McAteer, Breen, Keane, Townsend, McLoughlin, Cascarino (O'Neill 46; Kelly 75), Goodman, Staunton.

*Apr 2 - Vilnius - WC qual*
**Lithuania 0**
**Romania 1** (Moldovan 75)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Steinberg (Ger)
**Lithuania:** Stauce - Ziukas, Sulliauskas, Tereskinas, Veinoras, Zutautas, Macilevicius, Ivanauskas, Treiksaitis, (Stumbrysis 60), Sleikis, Jankauskas.
**Romania:** Stelea - Petrescu, Prodan, Dobos, Gilca, Popescu, Selymes, Vladoiu (Craioveanu 59), Moldovan (Ilie 74), Hagi, Munteanu.

*Apr 2 - Kiev - WC qual*
**Ukraine 2** (Kosovsky 3, Shevchenko 71)
**Northern Ireland 1** (Dowie pen 15)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Krondl (Cz)
**Ukraine:** Kosovsky - Luzhny, Bejenar, Golovko, Skypnyk, Mykhailenko, Kardash, Kalitvintsev (Kriventsov 86; Orbu 72), Shevchenko, Rebrov.
**N Ireland:** Wright - Nolan, Morrow, Hill, Taggart, Lomas, Gillespie (McMahon 79), Horlock, Dowie, Lennon (James 76), Hughes.

*Apr 2 - Granada, Spain - WC qual*
**Albania 2** (Kola pen61, pen90)
**Germany 3** (Kirsten 64, 80, 84)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Piraux (Bel)
**Albania:** Strakosha - Shduza (Bellai 68), Shulku, Abazi, R Vata, Kacaj, Haxhi, Bushi (Lance 90), Kola, Rrakle, Tare (F Vata 73).
**Germany:** Kopke - Reuter (Heinrich 58), Ziege, Kohler, Helmer, Sammer, Moeller, Eilts (Kirsten 60), Klinsmann, Wosz, Bierhoff.

*Apr 2 - La Paz - WC qual*
**Bolivia 2** (Sandy 7, Ochaizpur 48)
**Argentina 1** (Gorosito 43)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Marinho (Brz)
**Bolivia:** Trucco - Rimba, Sandy, Sanchez, I Castillo, Ochaizpur (Melgar 89), Soria, R Castillo, Gutierrez, Moreno (Angola).
**Argentina:** Gonzalez - Sensini, Vivas*, Paz, Diaz, Zapata*, Cagna (Ortega 50), Gorosito (Veron 46) Delgado (Calderon 71), Cruz.
*Vivas sent off, 66min; Zapata sent off, 81min.

*Apr 2 - Lima - WC qual*
**Peru 1** (Palacios 58)
**Ecuador 1** (Aguinaga pen78)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 47,000. **Ref:** Toro (Col)
**Peru:** Baleiro - Solano, Reynoso, Soto, Olivares, Carranza, Carazas, Zegarra (Carty 82), Palacios, Maestri, Julinho (Saenz 63).
**Ecuador:** Ibarra - Rivera, Montano, Hurtado, Capurro*, Ruiz (Chala 63), Carabali, Blandon, Aguinaga, Delgado*, Graziani (Hurtado 45).
*Delgado sent off, 48min; Capurro sent off, 83min.

*Apr 2 - Bogota - WC qual*
**Colombia 1** (Serna pen37)
**Paraguay 2** (Gamarra 37, Soto 85)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Souza (Brz)
**Colombia:** Mondragon - Santa, Mendoza, Lopez, Galeano, Serna, Lozano (Pacheco 59), Alvarez (De Avila 89), Valderrama, Asprilla*, Aristizabal (Hamilton 76). *Asprilla sent off, 77min.
**Paraguay:** Chilavert* - Ayala, Rivarola, Gamarra, Arce, Bourdier, Acuna, Enciso (Ruiz Diaz 77), Soto, Rojas, Yegros (Sarabia 66). *Chilavert sent off, 77min.

*Apr 2 - Montevideo - WC qual*
**Uruguay 3** (De los Santos 30, Montero 47, Otero 60)
**Venezuela 1** (Castellin 57)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol).
**Uruguay:** Siboldi - Tais, Moas, Montero*, Dos Santos, Saralegui, De los Santos, Begoechea, Francescoli (Martinez 70), Otero (Hernandez), Abreu (Romero 42). *Montero sent off, 76min.
**Venezuela:** Dudamel - Gonzalez, Tortolero, Etchenique, Martinez, Rodriguez (Paez 73), Ramos, Hernandez, Gerson Diaz, Guerra, Castellin.

*Apr 2 - Brasilia - intl friendly*
**Brazil 4** (Ronaldo 8, 58, Romario 39, 59)
**Chile 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 45,000
**Brazil:** Taffarel - Cafu, Aldair, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Mauro Silva, Leandro, Juninho, Denilson, Ronaldo, Romario.
**Chile:** Tapia - Mendoza, Margas, Reyes, Fuentes, Salas, Mussri, Castaneda, Sierra, Basay, Nunez.

*Apr 2 - Paris - intl friendly*
**France 1** (Djorkaeff pen 44)
**Sweden 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Sandra (Bel)
**France:** Barthez - Thuram (Blondeau 66), Blanc, Desailly, Candela, Makelele, Vieira (Djetou 64), Ba (Keller 79), Zidane (Gava 56), Djorkaeff, Dugarry (Loko 56).
**Sweden:** Ravelli - R Nilsson (Sundgren 56), Bjorklund, P Andersson, Lucic, Alexandersson (Schwarz 46), Zetterberg, Blomqvist (Larsson 66), Andreas Andersson, Dahlin (Pettersson 59), K Andersson.

*Apr 2 - Budapest - intl friendly*
**Hungary 1** (Klausz 33)
**Australia 3** (A Vidmar 6, 90, Muscat 89)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 18,000

*Apr 2 - Luzern - intl friendly*
**Switzerland 1** (Kunz 90)
**Latvia 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 9,100. **Ref:** Philippi (Lux)
**Switzerland:** Lehmann - Ohrel, Walker, Sforza, Rothenbuhler (Vogel 74), Yakin (Lombardo 46), Wicky, Camtaluppi, Sesa (Kunz 78), Grassi (Chassot 62), Chapuisat.
**Latvia:** Karavajevs - Stepanovs, Troickis, Biagonadezdins, Zemlinskis, Bliedelis, Stolcers, Pahars (Zakre 64), Babicevs (Zeiberlins 82), Astafiyevs, Rimkus (Linards 88).

## THURSDAY, APRIL 3

*Apr 3 - Cochin - Nehru Cup*
**Ghana 0**
**China 0 HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000

## FRIDAY, APRIL 4

*Apr 4 - Beirut - intl friendly*
**Lebanon 0**
**Norway 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Taleb Ramadan (Lib)
**Lebanon:** Ali Fakih (Bila Hachem 65) - Kourken Yenkibarian, Ibrahim Hosni, Kevork Garabedian, Riad Kobeissi, Moussa Hojeij (Papken Melikian 70), Jamal Taha Raed Abounnasr, Zaer Andari (Tro Kehayan 80), Vartan Ghazarian, Wael Nazha.
**Norway:** Baardsen - T Andersen, S Thomassen, S Pedersen, Tran Hai Ngoc, V Heggem, K-O Fjortoft, Berg Hestad, Fermann (Gravem 46), Espenvoll.

*Apr 4 - Cochin - Nehru Cup*
**India 2** (I M Vijayan 42, Carlton Chapman 85)
**Uzbekistan 2** (Anvarjon Soliev 25, Andrei Akopyanis 72)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 20,000

## SATURDAY, APRIL 5

*Apr 5 - Cochin - Nehru Cup*
**Iraq 1** (Sahib Hassan 70)
**Ghana XI 0 HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 7,000

*Apr 5 - Lagos - WC qual*
**Nigeria 2** (Amokachi 65, 76)
**Guinea 1** (T Camara 86) **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 50,000

*Apr 5 - Freetown - WC qual*
**Sierra Leone 1** (L Kamara pen 88)
**Ghana 1** (A Kamara og 23) **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 70,000

## SUNDAY, APRIL 6

*Apr 6 - Jakarta - WC qual*
**Indonesia 8**
**Cambodia 0 Att:** 45,000

*Apr 6 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup*
**China 1** (Sun Zhi 34)
**Uzbekistan 1** (Alexei Manuylenko 49)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 15,000

*Apr 6 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup*
**India 0**
**Iraq 1** (Qahtan Drain 24) **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 25,000

*Apr 6 - Burnaby - WC qual*
**Canada 0**
**El Salvador 0**
**Att:** 10,000
**Canada:** Forrest - Fraser (Fenwick 82), Samuel, Miller, Watson, Nash (Hooper 73), *Peschisolido, Aguiar, Aunger (Kusch 64), Bunbury, Corazzin. *Peschisolido sent off, 31min.
**El Salvador:** Alfaro - Carcamo, Vicevic, Iraherta, Hernandez, Lazo (Valencia 76), Cienfuegos, Amaya, Rodriguez, Diaz Arce, Cerritos (Montes 66).

*Apr 6 - Lagos - WC qual*
**Nigeria 2** (Amokachi 65, 76)
**Guinea 1** (Aboubacar Titi Camara 86)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 50,000

*Apr 6 - Nairobi - WC qual*
**Kenya 4** (Mike Okoth Origi 52, 59, 82, Francis Were 67)
**Burkina Faso 3** (Mamadou Zongo 15, 65, Firmin Sanou pen 40) **HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 10,000

*Apr 6 - Accra, Ghana - WC qual*
**Liberia 1 (Weah 29)**
**Egypt 0 HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 5,000

*Apr 6 - Windhoek - WC qual*
**Namibia 1** (Mohammed Ouseb 75)
**Tunisia 2** (Taoufik Hicheri 15, Khaled Badra 68)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 25,000

*Apr 6 - Pointe-Noire - WC qual*
**Congo 2** (Macchembe Younga 59, 65)
**South Africa 0 HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 38,000

*Apr 6 - Yaounde - WC qual*
**Cameroon 1** (Bernard Tchoutang 82)
**Zimbabwe 0 HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 50,000

*Apr 6 - Luanda - WC qual*
**Angola 3** (Paulao 30, Akwa 44, Sousa 55)
**Togo 1** (Djima Owayole 21) **HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 25,000

*Apr 6 - Libreville - WC qual*
**Gabon 0**
**Morocco 4** (Ahmed Bahja 2, 5, Bassir Salaheddine 38, 42) **HT:** 0-4. **Att:** 40,000
Match abandoned after 55min

*Apr 6 - Freetown - WC qual*
**Sierra Leone 1** (Abubacar Kamara og 23)
**Ghana 1** (Lamin Kamara 88pen) **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 30,000

## MONDAY, APRIL 7

*Apr 7 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup*
**Uzbekistan 3** (Ponamarev 40, Mataliev 75, Soliev 85)
**Ghana 2** (Sekyi Yaw 34, 56)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 20,000

## TUESDAY, APRIL 8

*Apr 8 - Manama - WC qual*
**Jordan 0**
**United Arab Emirates 0 Att:** 15,000

*Apr 8 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup*
**India 2** (I M Vijayan 11, Bhaichung Bhutia 54)
**Ghana 2** (Alex Donkar 37, Abedi Tugah 80)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 35,000

## NEHRU CUP – FINAL TABLE

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Iraq** | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 12 |
| **Uzbekistan** | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 5 |
| **India** | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| **China** | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| **Ghana** | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 |

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

*Apr 9 - Harare - WC qual*
**Zaire 2** (Etienne Sunda 29, Epole Bazamba 50)
**Zambia 2** (Kenneth Malitoli 21, Andrew Tembo 81)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 20,000

*Apr 9 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup semi-final*
**Uzbekistan 2** (Azizjon Khoshimov 85, Andrei Akopyants 110)
**China 1** (Qui Zhong Hui 2)
After extra time. **HT:** 0-1. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 15,000

## THURSDAY, APRIL 10

*Apr 10 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup semi-finals*
**Iraq 1** (Sadiq Abdul Ridha 74)
**India 1** (Carlton Chapman 29) **HT:** 0-1. **90min:** 1-1
*Iraq 4-2 on pens*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 11

*Apr 11 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup 3rd pl play-off*
**China 2** (Bao Wen Jie 17, Huang Yong 31)
**India 1** (Baichung Bhutia 36) **HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 18,500

*April 11 - Manama - WC qual*
**Bahrain 1** (Hamid Darwish 89)
**United Arab Emirates 2** (Adel Mohammed 20, 62)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 10,000

## SATURDAY, APRIL 12

*Apr 12 - Cochin - Nehru Gold Cup Final*
**Iraq 3** (Husam Naji 5, Anatoly Kuralev og 20, Laith Hussain Shihab 60)
**Uzbekistan 1** (Ravashanjon Mataliev 43)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 15,000

## SUNDAY, APRIL 13

*Apr 13 - Washington, US - intl friendly*
**Salvador 1** (Wald

# World Service — Paraguay beat Uruguay 3-1...Rapid clear in Austria...Club Brugge win 3-0 over Mouscron...Leicester win League Cup Final

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

*Apr 30 - Miami - WC qual*
**Brazil 4** (Leonardo 5, Romario 12pen, 17, 75)
**Mexico 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 51,500
**Brazil:** Taffarel - Cafu, Andre Cruz, Marcio Santos (Celio Silva 70), Roberto Carlos (Andre Luis 81), Djalminha (Donizete 86), Dunga, Mauro Silva (Cesar Sampaio 84), Leonardo, Ronaldo, Romario (Edmundo 81).
**Mexico:** Rios - Surez, Davino, Ramon Ramirez (Romero 67), Pardo, Garcia Aspe, Hernandez (Blanco 72), Coyote, Galindo (Bernal 30), Hermosillo, Zague Alves (Villa 30).

*Apr 30 - Buenos Aires - WC qual*
**Argentina 2** (Ortega 17, Crespo 32)
**Ecuador 1** (Aguinaga 67)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 65,000
**Argentina:** Roa - Ayala, Paz, Chamot, Almeyda, Simeone, Veron, Berti (Morales 80), Ortega, Claudio Lopez (Berizzo 76), Crespo.
**Ecuador:** Ibarra - Rivera (Urbano 79), Noriega, Montano, Mendez, Blandon, Carabali, De Souza, Chala (De la Cruz 64), Aguinaga, Eduardo Hurtado.

*Apr 30 - Barranquilla - WC qual*
**Colombia 0**
**Peru 1** (Pereda 61)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Brz)
**Colombia:** Mondragon - Cabrera, Bermudez, Lopez (Palacios* 44), Galeano, Gaviria (Lozano 46), Alvarez, Rincon, Valderrama, Valencia, De Avila (Ricard 57). *Palacios sent off, 81min.
**Peru:** Balerio - Solano, Jose Soto, Reynoso, Olivares, Serrano, Jayo, Pereda, Palacios, Carazas (Jorge Soto 63), Carty (Julinho 84).

*Apr 30 - Asuncion - WC qual*
**Paraguay 3** (Rojas 37, Cardozo 73pen, Soto 83)
**Uruguay 1** (Silva 87)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Antonio Pereira (Brz)
**Paraguay:** Ruiz Diaz - Gamarra, Rivarola*, Ayala, Villamayor, Enciso (Soto 33), Acuna, Struway, Benitez (Ferreyra 57), Rojas (Briziuela 76), Cardozo. *Rivarola sent off, 90min.
**Uruguay:** Siboldi - Mendez, Herrera, Moas, Ramos, Gutierrez*, De los Santos, Poyet, Francescoli, Otero (Silva 59), Martinez (Bengoechea 46). *Gutierrez sent off, 17min.

*Apr 30 - Yerevan - WC qual*
**Armenia 0**
**Northern Ireland 0**
**Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** K E Nielsen (Sweden)
**Armenia:** Berezoviki - Sukiaysn, Khathatryan, Hovsepyan, Der-Zararian, Petrosyan (Khodgoyan 84), Mkhitaryan, Yepiskoposyan (Minasyan 86), Arsen Avetisyan (Avetisyan 76), Mikayelyan, Assadouryan.
**N Ireland:** Fettis - Hill, Taggart, Morrow, Jenkins, Lomas, Lennon, Horlock, McCarthy (Mulryne 71), Quinn (McMahon 59), Dowie.

*Apr 30 - Vienna - WC qual*
**Austria 2** (Vastic 48, Stoger 87)
**Estonia 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 27,500
**Austria:** Konsel - Feiersinger, Schottel (Kogler 69), Pfeffer, Cerny, Heraf, Kuhbauer, Herzog, Wetl, Vastic (Stoger 51), Polster.
**Estland:** Poom - Kirs, Hohlov-Simson, Lemsalu, Meet, Viikmae (Leetma 83), Pari, Reim, Alonen (Arbeiter 80), Kristal, Oper.

*Apr 30 - Copenhagen - WC qual*
**Denmark 4** (Allan Nielsen 4, 56, Pedersen 27, B Laudrup 51)
**Slovenia 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 41,278
**Denmark:** Schmeichel - Laursen (Bisgaard 58), Rieper, Hogh, Heintze, Helveg, Allan Nielsen, Thomsen (Frandsen 86), Tomasson, Per Pedersen (Beck 70), B Laudrup.
**Slovenia:** Boskovic - Englaro, Krizan, Milanic, Rodonja (Karic 46), Jermanis, Novak, Gajser (Seslar 60), Ceh, Gliha, Siljak (Valentincic 80).

*Apr 30 - Wembley - WC qual*
**England 2** (Sheringham 43, Shearer 90)
**Georgia 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 71,208. **Ref:** Harrel (Fr)
**England:** Seaman - G Neville, Campbell, Batty, Adams (Southgate 88), Le Saux, Beckham, Ince (Redknapp 78), Shearer, Sheringham, Lee.
**Georgia:** Zoidze - Shekiladze, Tskhadadze, Shelia, Chikhradze, Machavariani (Gogrichidze 33), Nemsadze, Jamarauli, Ketsbaia, Kinkladze (Gakhokidze 61), S Arveladze, Gogrichidze (A Arveladze 76).

*Apr 30 - Bremen - WC qual*
**Germany 2** (Bierhoff 63, Basler 72)
**Ukraine 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 33,242
**Germany:** Kopke - Helmer, Kohler, Heinrich, Eilts, Ziege, Basler, Wosz (Tarnat 83), Bobic (Novotny 13), Klinsmann, Bierhoff.
**Ukraine:** Shovkovsy - Golovkov, Luzhni, Skrypnyk (Orbu 70), Nagornyak (Vashchuk 70), Bezhenar, Maksimov, Rebrov, Kalitvintsev (Mikhailenko 79), Kosovsky, Shevchenko.

*Apr 30 - Salonika - WC qual*
**Greece 0**
**Croatia 1** (Suker 74)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 35,000
**Greece:** Atmatzidis - Apostolakis (Kostandinidis 46), Kasapis, Ouzounidis, Karataidis, Dabizas, Zagorakis, Nikolaidis (Machlas 13), Poursanidis, Franzeskos, Donis.
**Croatia:** Ladic - Jarni, Bilic, Asanovic, Prosinecki (Vlaovic 72), Suker, Boban, Boksic (Cvitanovic 67), Soldo (Maric 53), Simic, Juiric.

*Apr 30 - Ramat Gan, Tel Aviv - WC qual*
**Israel 2** (Ohana 3, 72)
**Cyprus 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 34,000
**Israel:** Cohen - Alon Harazi, Glam, Alon Hazan, Shelah, Bennado, Banin, Alon Mizrahi (Janno 85), Berkovic, Zohar (Atar 88), Ohana.
**Cyprus:** Panayiotou - Theodotou, Pittas, Misos, Charalambous, Larkou (Okkas 46), Timotheou, Andreou, Gogic, Malekos (Ioannou 46), Papavassiliou (Engomitis 88).

*Apr 30 - Naples - WC qual*
**Italy 3** (Di Matteo 23, Maldini 37, R Baggio 66)
**Poland 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 37,500. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Sp)
**Italy:** Peruzzi - Ferrara (Panucci 85), Di Livio, Costacurta, Cannavaro, Maldini, Di Matteo, Albertini, D Baggio (Fuser 85), Zola (R Baggio 51), Ravanelli.
**Poland:** Wozniak - Skrzypek, Zielinski, Wojtala, Waldoch (Mayak 46), Citko, Kaluzny, Baluszynski (Hajto 66), Kucharski (K Warzycha 46), Nowak, Ledwon.

*Apr 30 - Riga - WC qual*
**Latvia 2** (Shevlyakov 38, 83)
**Belarus 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Koho (Fin)
**Latvia:** Karavajevs - Troicsis, Astafievs (Strandinsh 82), Zemlinskis, Shevlakovs, Blagonadezhdins, Ivanovs, Pakhars (Zakreshevskis 66) Rimkus, Babichevs (Bleidelis 46), Shtolcers.
**Belarus:** Shantalosov - Gurenko, Shtanuk, Jahimovich, Hackevich, (Gerasimenko 46), Ostrovsky, (Makovetsky 66), Belkevich, Metlitsky, Kachuro.

*Apr 30 - Vaduz - WC qual*
**Liechtenstein 0**
**Lithuania 2** (Razanauskas 65, Skarbalius 90 )
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 800
**Liechtenstein:** Heeb - Stocklasa, Hefti, Ospelt (Bicker 72), Hanselmann, Christoph Frick (Ackermann 64), D Telser, Hasler, Klaunzer (M Telser 75), Schadler, Daniel Frick.
**Lithuania:** Stauce - Zaukas, Tereskinas, Suika, Vainoras, Zutautas, Maciulevicius, Ivanauskas, Stumbrys (Razanauskas 46), Jankauskas, Skarbalius.

*Apr 30 - Valletta - WC qual*
**Malta 1** (Sultana 8)
**Faroe Islands 2** (Ossur Hansen 60pen, Tody Jonsson 90)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 5,000
**Malta:** Muscat - Attard (Turner 50), Chetchuti, Silvio Vella, Debono, Zammit, Agius, Saliba, Sultana, Brincat, Zahra.
**Faroes:** Martin Knudsen - Ennigrad, Kristian Hansen, Oli Johannesen, Henning Janskor, Julian Johansen, Mikkial Thomasen, John Petersen (J E Rasmussen 55), Ossur Hansen, A Morkore, Tody Jonsson.

*Apr 30 - Oslo - WC qual*
**Norway 1** (Solksjaer 83)
**Finland 1** (Sumiala 60)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 22,287
**Norway:** Grodas - Eggen, Berg, Johnsen (Halle 28), Bjornebye, Solskjaer, Mykland, Rekdal, Solbakken, Strandli (J Flo 62), T A Flo.
**Finland:** Niemi - Tuomela, Hyypia (Lehkusou 4), Nuorela, Koskinen, Mahlio, Rissanen, Nurmela (Makela 86), Sumiala, Litmanen, Jonatan Johansson (Kolkka 82).

*Apr 30 - Bucharest - WC qual*
**Romania 1** (Adrian Ilie 32)
**Rep Ireland 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 21,500. **Ref:** Van den Ende (Hol)
**Romania:** Stelea - Petrescu, Prodan, Dobos, Filipescu, Gheorghe Popescu (Rotariu 72), Munteanu, Ilie (Gabriel Popescu 84), Moldovan, Hagi (Ciobotariu 86), Selymes.
**Rep Ireland:** A Kelly - Irwin (Kenna 46), Staunton, Cunningham, Harte (Goodman 74), Keane, Townsend, Houghton, Kennedy, G Kelly, Connolly (Cascarino 74).

*Apr 30 - Moscow - WC qual*
**Russia 3** (Kechinov 20, Grishin 58, Simutenkov 60)
**Luxembourg 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Rowbothen (Sc)
**Russia:** Ovchinnikov - Kovtun, Tetradze (Popov 24), Chugainov, Onopko, Radimov (Zubko 69), Kosolapov, Alenichev, Beschastnykh (Grishin 46), Ketchinov, Simutenkov.
**Luxembourg:** Koch - Vanek, Strasser*, Weis, Shaibene (Amodio 88), Deville, Posing, Birsens, Hellers, Cardoni (Lamborelle 75), Langers (Thill 71). *Strasser sent off, 59min.

*Apr 30 - Serravalle - WC qual*
**San Marino 0**
**Holland 6** (Bergkamp 40, 90, Aron Winter 63, Van Hooijdonk 70, F De Boer 74, John Bosman 85)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 2,800
**San Marino:** F Gasperoni - M Valentini, Vannucci, L Gobbi, Guerra, Matteoni, B Gasperoni (L Gasperoni 78), M Mazza, Montagna (Bianchi 50), Francini, R Muccioli.
**Holland:** Van der Sar - Winter (Reiziger 73), Stam, F De Boer, Numan, Jonk, Van Hooydonk, R De Boer (John Bosman 65), Bergkamp, Seedorf, Zenden.

*Apr 30 - Gothenburg - WC qual*
**Sweden 2** (Kennet Andersson 43, 63)
**Scotland 1** (Gallacher 83)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Collina (It)
**Sweden:** Ravelli - Sundgren, P Andersson, Bjorklund, Kamark, Schwarz (Mild 13), Zetterberg, Andreas Andersson, Thern, Dahlin, K Andersson.
**Scotland:** Leighton - Burley, Boyd, Calderwood, Hendry, McKinlay (Gemmill 68), Gallacher, Lambert, Jackson (Durie 66), G McAllister, Collins.

*Apr 30 - Zurich - WC qual*
**Switzerland 1** (Turkyilmaz 83)
**Hungary 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 17,300. **Ref:** Sundell (Sweden)
**Switzerland:** Lehmann - Ohrel, Walker, Vega, Wicky (Lombardo 62), Yakin, Kunz (Chassot 56), Vogel, Turkyilmaz, Sforza, Chapuisat (Grassi 73).
**Hungary:** Safar - Kuttor, Banfi, Norbert Nagy (Szelezak 56), Lorincz, Kereszturi, Mracsko (Nyilas 69), Urban, Orosz (Halmai 80), Iiles, Klausz.

*Apr 30 - Istanbul - WC qual*
**Turkey 1** (Oktay 35)
**Belgium 3** (Luis Oliveira 12, 31, 45)
**HT:** 1-3. **Att:** 29,000
**Turkey:** Rustu - Recep, Bulent, Tolunay, Hakan Unsal (Celil 46), Arif (Tayfun 46), Tayfun, Ogun, Hakan Sukur, Tugay (Hami 75), Oktay.
**Belgium:** De Wilde - Crasson, De Roover, Van Meir, Smidts (Doll 58), F Van der Elst, Staelens, Luis Oliveira, E Mpenza (Lemoine 69), Scifo, Van Kerckhoven.

*Apr 30 - Belgrade - WC qual*
**Yugoslavia 1** (Mijatovic 87pen)
**Spain 1** (Hierro 19pen)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 53,000
**Yugoslavia:** Kralj - Mirkovic, Djorovic, Vidakovic (Petrovic 46), Djukic, Mihajlovic (Ciric 79), Govedarica, Savicevic (Milosevic 36), Mijatovic, Dragan Stojkovic, Drulovic.
**Spain:** Zubizarreta - Abelardo, Sergi, Alkorta, Nadal, Hierro, Kiko (Luis Enrique 55), Rios (Lopez 57), Guardiola, Raul, Alfonso (Amor 68).

### OTHER INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

**Apr 9** (Los Angeles, Coliseum) El Salvador 0, UNAM (Mex) 0; Santos (Mex) 3 Guatemala 0.

### EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

**Gp 1:** Croatia 2 Denmark 0; Bosnia 0 Greece 0; Croatia 2 Slovenia 0.
**Gp 2:** Italy 6 Moldova 0; Poland 1 Italy 1.
**Gp 4:** Scotland 4 Estonia 0; Scotland 1 Austria 2.
**Gp 5:** Cyprus 0 Russia 4; Luxembourg 0 Israel 5; Bulgaria 3 Cyprus 1.
**Gp 6:** Malta 0 Slovakia 6; Czech Rep 0 Yugoslavia 1.
**Gp 7:** Holland 6 San Marino 0; Wales 1 Belgium 0; Turkey 0 Holland 1.
**Gp 8:** Lithuania 1 Romania 2; Macedonia 0 Rep Ireland 4.
**Gp 9:** Albania 0 Ukraine 3; Albania 0 Germany 4.

# EUROPE

## AUSTRIA

### TUESDAY, MARCH 25

**Rapid Vienna 2** (Wagner 73, 88)
**Salzburg 0** Att: 15,000

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

**FC Linz 0**
**Grazer AK 1** (Wieger 120) Att: 2,000

**Admira Wacker 1** (Narbekovas 9)
**Linzer ASK 3** (Rauffmann 49, Riseth 67, Scharrer 86) Att: 1,500

**Sturm Graz 2** (Vastic 60, Spiteri 89)
**SV Ried 1** (Drechsel 90) Att: 4,000

**FC Tirol 0**
**Austria Vienna 0** Att: 7,000

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Salzburg 1** (Glieder 30)
**Austria Vienna 0** Att: 12,000

**Grazer AK 2** (Wieger 2, Ramusch 64)
**Tirol 1** (Mayrleb 42) Att: 4,000

**Linzer ASK 1** (Westerthaler 18)
**FC Linz 1** (Stiegelmair 29) Att: 13,000

**Rapid Vienna 0**
**Sturm Graz 2** (Vastic 42, Hopfer 88) Att: 10,000

**SV Ried 1** (Drechsel 77)
**Admira Wacker 0** Att: 6,000

### SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Austria Vienna 1** (Ogris 4 )
**Grazer AK 1** (Ramusch 36) Att: 4,000

**Linz 2** (Stiegelmair 8, Bettagno 83)
**Ried 2** (Schutterle 4, Oerlemans 86) Att: 4,000

**Admira Wacker 1** (Rosenegger 45)
**Rapid Vienna 2** (Kuhbauer 29, Stoger 47) Att: 3,000

**Sturm Graz 0**
**Salzburg 0** Att: 9,000

**FC Tirol 1** (Mayrleb 61)
**Linzer 0** Att: 4,000

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

**Grazer 1** (Ramusch 69)
**Salzburg 0** Att: 2,000

**Linzer 2** (Rauffmann 25, Palyanytsya 72)
**Austria Vienna 2** (Brunmayr 9, Leitner 36) Att: 4,000

**Rapid Vienna 4** (Wagner 31, 74, 89, Stoger 52)
**Linz 2** (Linimair 9, Brenner 42) Att: 5,000

**Ried 2** (Hansen 8, Schutterle 48)
**FC Tirol 1** (Stanislavjevic og 51) Att: 4,000

**Sturm Graz 7** (Milanic 3, Reinmayr 10, 71, Vastic 22, Dowe 49, Purk 50, 78)
**Admira Wacker 0** Att: 4,000

### SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Salzburg 3** (Kocijan 44, 86, Amerhauser 47)
**Grazer 1** (Wieger 90) Att: 11,000

**Austria Vienna 1** (Gager 6)
**Linzer 1** (Duspara 61) Att: 4,000

**Linz 1** (Bettagno 16)
**Rapid Vienna 1** (Wagner 33) Att: 4,000

**Admira Wacker 0**
**Sturm Graz 2** (Dowe 46, Vastic 84) Att: 1,000

**FC Tirol 1** (Brzceczek 15)
**Ried 0** Att: 3,000

### AUSTRIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rapid Vienna | 29 | 16 | 9 | 4 | 57 | 27 | 57 |
| Salzburg | 29 | 15 | 10 | 4 | 37 | 15 | 55 |
| Sturm Graz | 29 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 39 | 23 | 44 |
| FC Tirol | 29 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 38 | 33 | 43 |
| Linzer ASK | 29 | 9 | 14 | 6 | 31 | 27 | 41 |
| Casino Graz | 29 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 29 | 36 | 35 |
| SV Ried | 29 | 10 | 4 | 15 | 36 | 48 | 34 |
| Austria Vienna | 29 | 9 | 7 | 13 | 32 | 45 | 34 |
| FC Linz | 29 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 20 | 37 | 24 |
| Admira Wacker | 29 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 26 | 54 | 23 |

### *AUSTRIAN CUP – QUARTER-FINALS*

**Aus. Lustenau 2 Sturm Graz 3**
**Grazer AK 0 First Vienna 1**
**FC Tirol 0 Linzer ASK 1**
**Wieber SC 0 Salzburg 1**

## BELGIUM

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

**Anderlect 2** (Baseggio 16, 25)
**Standard 1** (Peiremans og 29) Att: 21,450

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Antwerp 1** (Karagiannis 76)
**St Truiden 2** (Kaliciak 19, Morhaye 68) Att: 5,000

**Cercle Bruges 0**
**Genk 4** (Bukalski 39, 90, Strupar 67, Goor 60) Att: 2,400

**Mouscron 2** (Dugardein 22, L. Mpenza 56)
**RWDM 0** Att: 9,000

**Gent 4** (Jbari 26, Vangronsveld 43, Herreman 72, Dragutinovic 86)
**Lierse 5** (Peeters 22, Rudy 25, 27, 89, Brocken 58) Att: 11,000

**Lokeren 0**
**Harelbeke 0** Att: 3,000

**Lommel 2** (Janssen 8, Waligora 15)
**Club Brugge 0** Att: 12,000

**Mechelen 1** (Mbonabucya 20)
**Charleroi 1** (Casto 27) Att: 5,000

### SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Eendracht Aalst 5** (Vandenbossche 5, Temmerman 18, Lassen 27, 47, Daelmans 71)
**Ekeren 0** Att: 6,500

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

**Charleroi 2** (Jovan 21, Remy 42)
**Eendracht Aalst 3** (Lassen 5, 66, 86) Att: 4,000

**Genk 3** (Delbroek 4, Bukalski 41, Peeters 82)
**Antwerp 0** Att: 9,000

**Ekeren 4** (Hofmans 24, 49, Radzinski 28, Czerniatynski 80)
**Lommel 1** (Waligora 84) Att: 4,000

**Lierse 1** (Huysmans 45)
**Harelbeke 0** Att: 12,500

**Mechelen 0**
**Lokeren 1** (Koller 62) Att: 6,800

**RWDM 0**
**Anderlecht 0** Att: 10,000

**St Truiden 1** (Coenen 63)
**Gent 2** (Vasov 72, Dragutinovic 78) Att: 6,000

**Standard 1** (Lawaree 30)
**Cercle Bruges 2** (Renty 42, Torma 85) Att: 11,000

### SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Club Brugge 3** (Claessens 11, Spehar 26, Staelens pen 80)
**Mouscron 0** Att: 18,000

### SUNDAY, 20 APRIL

**Cercle Bruges 1** (Renty 23)
**RWDM 1** (Obenwa 76) Att: 2,300

**Mouscron 1** (Lesjak 41)
**Ekeren 4** (De Buyser og 2, Schaessens 15, Hofmans 35, Kinet 72) Att: 7,500

**Gent 0**
**Genk 1** (Goor 64) Att: 8,500

**Lokeren 0**
**Lierse 1** (Van Meir 35) Att: 13,000

**Lommel 2** (Van Geneugden 11, Cannaerts 32)
**Charleroi 1** (Remy 16) Att: 5,000

**Anderlecht 0**
**Club Brugge 1** (Claessens 67) Att: 27,000

**Antwerp 3** (Godfroid 29, Severeyns 43, Owolabi 63)
**Standard 0** Att: 5,000

**Eendracht Aalst 3** (Vandenbossche 15, Lauwers 76, Lassen 90)
**Mechelen 1** (Hasenhuttl 46) Att: 7,500

**Harelbeke 1** (Verschelde 41)
**St Truiden 1** (Wuyts pen 73) Att: 4,000

### BELGIUM

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lierse | 31 | 19 | 10 | 2 | 60 | 32 | 67 |
| Club Brugge | 31 | 20 | 5 | 6 | 64 | 32 | 65 |
| Mouscron | 31 | 16 | 9 | 6 | 55 | 36 | 57 |
| Anderlecht | 31 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 50 | 32 | 52 |
| Lommel | 31 | 15 | 7 | 9 | 44 | 43 | 52 |
| Antwerp | 31 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 44 | 41 | 47 |
| Harelbeke | 31 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 45 | 33 | 46 |
| Genk | 31 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 42 | 36 | 44 |
| Standard | 31 | 14 | 2 | 15 | 50 | 50 | 44 |
| Germinal | 31 | 10 | 7 | 14 | 43 | 51 | 37 |
| St Truiden | 31 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 41 | 52 | 35 |
| Charleroi | 31 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 41 | 48 | 34 |
| RWDM | 31 | 8 | 10 | 13 | 29 | 37 | 34 |
| Lokeren | 31 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 37 | 52 | 34 |
| Gent | 31 | 9 | 6 | 16 | 42 | 55 | 33 |
| Aalst | 31 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 40 | 53 | 31 |
| Mechelen | 31 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 33 | 48 | 31 |
| Cercle Bruges | 31 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 31 | 60 | 24 |

### *BELGIAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS, 1ST LEG*

**Ekeren 0**
**Eendracht Aalst 0**

**Tielen 0**
**Anderlecht 1** (Obiorah 88)

## ENGLAND

### MONDAY, MARCH 24

**Arsenal 1** ( Wright 79)
**Liverpool 2** (Collymore 51, McAteer 65) Att: 38,068

**Middlesbrough 1** (Beck 56)
**Nottm Forest 1** (Haaland 4) Att: 49,888

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Aston Villa 3** (Milosevic 41, Staunton 50, Yorke 54)
**Everton 1** (Unsworth 14) Att: 39,339

**Chelsea 0**
**Arsenal 3** (Wright 22, Platt 53, Bergkamp 80) Att: 28,182

**Man Utd 2** (Cantona 48, Solskjaer 77)
**Derby 3** (Ward 30, Wanchope 36, Sturridge 76) Att: 55,243

**Newcastle 1** (Shearer 77)
**Sunderland 1** (Gray 32) Att: 36,582

**Nottm Forest 1** (Pearce pen 89)
**Southampton 3** (Magilton 8, Evans 87, 90) Att: 25,134

**Tottenham 1** (Dozzell 81)
**Wimbledon 0** Att: 32,654

### SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Liverpool 1** (Fowler 52)
**Coventry 2** (Whelan 65, Dublin 90) Att: 40,079

### MONDAY, APRIL 7

**Leeds 0**
**Blackburn 0** Att: 27,264

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

**Everton 1** (Branch 17)
**Leicester 1** (Marshall 70) Att: 3,368

**Derby 1** (Ward 66)
**Southampton 1** (D. Powell og) Att: 17,839

**Sheffield Wed 2** (Atherton 18, Booth 70)
**Tottenham 1** (Nielsen 43) Att: 22,667

**Wimbledon 0**
**Aston Villa 2** (Milosevic 26, Wright 78) Att: 9,015

**West Ham 0**
**Middlesbrough 0** Att: 23,988

**Coventry 3** (Dublin 49, Williams 51, Whelan 58)
**Chelsea 1** (P. Hughes 43) Att: 19,917

### SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Arsenal 2** (Adams 35, Platt 66)
**Leicester 0** Att: 38,044

**Blackburn 2** (McKinlay 35, Warhurst 88)
**Man Utd 3** (Cole 33, Scholes 44, Cantona 81) Att: 30,476

**Derby 2** (Rowett 21, Van der Laan 36)
**Aston Villa 1** (Joachim 84) Att: 18,071

**Everton 1** (Speed 11)
**Tottenham 0** Att: 36,380

**Southampton 2** (Evans 13, Berrkovitch 36)
**West Ham 0** Att: 15,244

### SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Sheffield Wed 1** (Pembridge 57)
**Newcastle 1** (Elliott 35) Att: 33,798

**Sunderland 1** (Steward 53)
**Liverpool 2** (Fowler 33, McManaman 48) Att: 21,938

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

**Newcastle 3** (Shearer 12, 35, Asprilla 30)
**Chelsea 1** (Burley 62) Att: 36,320

**Wimbledon 2** (Holdsworth 19, Castledine 74)
**Leeds 0** Att: 7,979

**Everton 1** (Ferguson 66)
**Liverpool 1** (Thomsen og 27) Att: 40,177

### SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Arsenal 1** (Platt 19)
**Blackburn 1** (Flitcroft 90) Att: 38,086

**Aston Villa 1** (Yorke 81)
**Tottenham 1** (Vega 54) Att: 39,339

**Chelsea 2** (Minto 13, M. Hughes 73)
**Leicester 1** (Sinclair og 47) Att: 27,723

**Liverpool 1** (Barnes 19)
**Man Utd 3** (Pallister 13, 42, Cole 63) Att: 40,892

**Middlesbrough 0**
**Sunderland 1** (Williams 45) Att: 30,106

**Newcastle 3** (Elliott 12, Ferdinand 52, Shearer 75)
**Derby 1** (Sturridge 1) Att: 36,553

**Nottm Forest 1** (Van Hooijdonk 6)
**Leeds 1** (Deane 66) Att: 25,565

**Sheffield Wed 3** (Donaldson 42, Trustfull 78, 83)
**Wimbledon 1** (Goodman 85) Att: 26,957

**Southampton 2** (Evans 27, Ostenstad 47)
**Coventry 2** (Ndlovu 62, Whelan 74) Att: 15,251

**West Ham 2** (Kitson 10, 32)
**Everton 2** (Branch 78, Ferguson 90) Att: 24,525

### ENGLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manchester United | 34 | 20 | 9 | 5 | 69 | 39 | 69 |
| Arsenal | 36 | 18 | 11 | 7 | 59 | 30 | 65 |
| Liverpool | 35 | 18 | 10 | 7 | 58 | 33 | 64 |
| Newcastle | 34 | 17 | 9 | 8 | 67 | 40 | 60 |
| Aston Villa | 36 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 44 | 31 | 58 |
| Sheffield Wednesday | 35 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 48 | 44 | 56 |
| Chelsea | 36 | 15 | 10 | 11 | 56 | 54 | 55 |
| Wimbledon | 35 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 45 | 44 | 49 |
| Tottenham | 36 | 13 | 7 | 16 | 42 | 47 | 46 |
| Leeds | 36 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 27 | 37 | 44 |
| Everton | 36 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 43 | 52 | 42 |
| Derby | 36 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 42 | 54 | 43 |
| Blackburn | 35 | 9 | 14 | 12 | 40 | 37 | 41 |
| Leicester | 35 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 39 | 50 | 40 |
| Southampton | 36 | 9 | 11 | 16 | 48 | 55 | 38 |
| Coventry | 36 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 35 | 51 | 38 |
| West Ham | 35 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 34 | 45 | 38 |
| Sunderland | 36 | 9 | 10 | 17 | 32 | 52 | 37 |
| Middlesbrough | 34 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 44 | 54 | 33 |
| Nottingham Forest | 36 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 30 | 53 | 33 |

*Middlesbrough deducted 3 points for calling off game*

### *LEAGUE CUP – FINAL*

**Leicester 1** (Heskey 118)
**Middlesbrough 1** (Ravanelli 95) aet Att: 76,757

### *LEAGUE CUP – FINAL REPLAY*

**Leicester 1** (Claridge 100)
**Middlesbrough 0** aet Att: 39,428

### *FA CUP – SEMI-FINALS*

**Wimbledon 0**
**Chelsea 3** (M. Hughes 43, 90, Zola 64) Att: 32,674

**Middlesbrough 3** (Ravanelli 65, Hignett pen 71, Festa 101)
**Chesterfield 3** (A. Morris 55, Dyche pen 61, Hewitt 120) aet Att: 49,640

## FRANCE

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

**Bordeaux 0**
**Nantes 0** Att: 25,108

**Lille 0**
**Montpellier 4** (Bakayoko 69, 70, 74, Sauzee 82) Att: 11,300

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

**Auxerre 2** (Sibierski 34, Diomede 50)
**Paris SG 1** (Cauet 44) Att: 17,000

**Bastia 1** (Drobnjak 87)
**Cannes 0** Att: 4,000

**Le Havre 0**
**Guingamp 1** (Wreh 64) Att: 7,751

**Metz 0**
**Lyon 1** (Caveglia 65) Att: 9,633

**Marseille 4** (Lechkov 4, Libbra 45, 84, Gravelaine 75)
**Nancy 1** (Cascarino 71) Att: 17,000

**Nice 0**
**Monaco 2** (Pottier og 18, Ikpeba 90) Att: 5,763

**Rennes 2** (Guivarc'h pen 32, Carteron 47)
**Lens 1** (Vairelles 17, Camara 81) Att: 8,000

**Strasbourg 2** (Baticle pen 62, Zitelli 81)
**Caen 0** Att: 15,000

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4

**Monaco 2** (Ikpeba 6, Legwinski 68)
**Lille 0** Att: 4,000

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Le Havre 0**
**Metz 0** Att: 9,095

**Montpellier 2** (Bakayoko 6, 14)
**Bordeaux 0** Att: 13,814

**Nancy 2** (Correa 21, 74)
**Strasbourg 0** Att: 7,609

**Nantes 1** (N'Doram 22)
**Marseille 1** (Libbra 90) Att: 34,518

**Lyon 2** (Laville 64, Giuly 90)
**Auxerre 0** Att: 22,398

**Paris SG 1** (Pouget 75)
**Rennes 1** (Guivarc'h pen 40) Att: 32,297

**Cannes 1** (Fugen og 60)
**Nice 1** (Chaouch 21) Att: 5,000

### SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Guingamp 1** (Wreh 43)
**Caen 1** (Nee 22) Att: 8,000

**Lens 1** (Vairelles 71)
**Bastia 1** (Siljak 44) Att: 20,000

### FRIDAY, APRIL 11

**Caen 2** (Guerreiro 10, Lievre 55)
**Bastia 2** (Drobnjak 33, Perez 45) Att: 16,465

### FRIDAY, APRIL 15

**Bastia 1** (Moravcik 26)
**Paris SG 1** (Loko 15) Att: 10,000

### SATURDAY, APRIL 16

**Auxerre 2** (Silvestre 8, Saib 88)
**Le Havre 0** Att: 7,000

**Caen 1** (Hebert 8)
**Nancy 1** (Moustaid 19) Att: 15,106

**Bordeaux 2** (Papin 49, 62)
**Monaco 1** (Scifo pen 90) Att: 28,000

**Metz 2** (Rodriguez 19, Pires 82)
**Guingamp 0** Att: 10,234

**Marseille 2** (Jambay 48, Gravelaine 89)
**Montpellier 2** (Rizzetto 42, Bakayoko 49) Att: 26,000

**Nice 1** (Chaouch 8)
**Lens 2** (Smicer 49, Debeve 81) Att: 4,143

**Rennes 2** (Papura 15, Dabo 45)
**Lyon 1** (Gava 87) Att: 16,572

**Strasbourg 0**
**Nantes 1** (Le Roux 73) Att: 31,000

### SUNDAY, APRIL 17

**Lille 1** (Becanovic 69)
**Cannes 2** (Daury 41, Charvet 87) Att: 10,000

### FRANCE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monaco | 34 | 20 | 9 | 5 | 60 | 26 | 69 |
| Paris SG | 34 | 16 | 12 | 6 | 52 | 27 | 60 |
| Nantes | 34 | 14 | 15 | 5 | 54 | 29 | 57 |
| Strasbourg | 34 | 18 | 2 | 14 | 48 | 43 | 56 |
| Bordeaux | 34 | 14 | 13 | 7 | 51 | 36 | 55 |
| Bastia | 34 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 48 | 42 | 55 |
| Metz | 34 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 35 | 26 | 53 |
| Auxerre | 34 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 40 | 28 | 52 |
| Lyon | 34 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 48 | 48 | 52 |
| Montpellier | 34 | 10 | 14 | 10 | 37 | 36 | 44 |
| Guingamp | 34 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 31 | 33 | 44 |
| Marseille | 34 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 39 | 37 | 43 |
| Lens | 34 | 11 | 8 | 15 | 37 | 49 | 41 |
| Cannes | 34 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 22 | 32 | 40 |
| Rennes | 34 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 36 | 47 | 39 |
| Le Havre | 34 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 28 | 38 | 36 |
| Nancy | 34 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 29 | 44 | 33 |
| Lille | 34 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 30 | 54 | 33 |
| Caen | 34 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 30 | 43 | 32 |
| Nice | 34

**Stuttgart 1** (Balakov pen 13)
**1860 Munich 1** (Posch og 7) Att: 53,000

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

**Arminia Bielefeld 1** (Reina 57)
**Karlsruhe 2** (Fink 70, Carl 90) Att: 22,512

**Bayern Munich 1** (Zickler 1)
**Werder Bremen 0** Att: 63,000

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Kirsten 63, Meijer 86)
**Schalke 0** Att: 22,500

**Borussia MG 2** (Lupescu pen 43, Pettersson 87)
**Fortuna 0** Att: 34,500

**Hansa Rostock 3** (Baumgart 3, Beinlich 40, Studer 49)
**Freiburg 1** (Spies 16) Att: 16,400

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

**Koln 2** (Andersen 8, Braun 22)
**Duisburg 5** (Citchon og 42, Marin 61, Salou 68, Wolters 74, Steffen 86) Att: 18,000

**1860 Munich 3** (Effenberg og 53, Borimirov 54, Bender 59)
**Borussia MG 0** Att: 43,000

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Chapuisat 33, pen 77)
**Bochum 0** Att: 55,000

**Fortuna 2** (Katemann 32, Seeliger 72)
**St Paul 0** Att: 12,500

**Hamburg 0**
**Bayern Munich 3** (Klinsmann 16, Basler 43, Helmer 64) Att: 57,590

**Hansa Rostock 1** (Micevski 74)
**Bayer Leverkusen 0** Att: 16,500

**Karlsruhe 0**
**Schalke 0** Att: 31,000

**Werder Bremen 2** (A. Herzog 17, M Bode 68)
**Arminia Bielefeld 1** (Reeb 11) Att: 25,000

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Freiburg 1** (Wassmer 66)
**Stuttgart 1** (Gilewicz 64) Att: 22,500

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

**St Pauli 2** (Emerson 6, Scharping 8)
**Bochum 1** (Kracht 75) Att: 20,152

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Arminia Bielefeld 1** (Reina 13)
**Hamburg 1** (Salihamidzic 25) Att: 22,512

**Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Kirsten 22, Meijer 66, Sergio 90)
**Karlsruhe 1** (Dundee 33) Att: 20,000

**Bayern Munich 3** (Rizzitelli 42, 59, Klinsmann 51)
**Koln 2** (Scherr 79, Zdebel 89) Att: 63,000

**Borussia MG 4** (Dahlin 3, 23, Lupescu 50)
**Freiburg 3** (Hoersen og 22, Spies 31, Wassmer 88) Att: 26,800

**Duisburg 3** (Salou 8, Marin 47, M. Zeyer pen 86)
**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Ricken 60, Zorc pen 88) Att: 30,200

**St Pauli 0**
**1860 Munich 0** Att: 20,725

**Schalke 1** (Latal 21)
**Werder Bremen 1** (M. Bode 59) Att: 37,220

**Stuttgart 5** (Bobic 3, Balakov 48, 50, Elber 70, Haber 75)
**Hansa Rostock 1** (Yasser 87) Att: 30,000

**Bochum 3** (Katemann og 21, Michaelke 24, Donkov 45)
**Fortuna 1** (Fach 68) Att: 27,070

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

**Fortuna 1** (Istenic 64)
**Duisburg 1** (Marin 45) Att: 20,000

**Hansa Rostock 1** (Akpoborie 42)
**Borussia MG 0** Att: 17,200

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Riedle 2)
**Bayern Munich 1** (Rizzitelli 3) Att: 55,000

**Freiburg 4** (Kohl 2, Heidenreich 9, Thomforde og 58, Jurcevic 68)
**St Pauli 0** Att: 22,500

**Hamburg 1** (Kmetsch 29)
**Schalke 0** Att: 25,604

**Koln 2** (Polster 48, Andersen 64)
**Arminia Bielefeld 5** (Kuntz 5, 53, Maul 17, Maas 37, Reina 75) Att: 21,000

**1860 Munich 0**
**Bochum 1** (Donkov 20) Att: 54,000

**Werder Bremen 1** (Van Lent 48)
**Karlsruhe 0** Att: 30,113

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Stuttgart 1** (Berthold 75)
**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Sergio 42, Kirsten 68) Att: 50,000

GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern Munich | 29 | 18 | 8 | 3 | 56 | 27 | 62 |
| Bayer Leverkusen | 29 | 18 | 5 | 6 | 57 | 35 | 59 |
| VfB Stuttgart | 29 | 16 | 7 | 6 | 68 | 30 | 55 |
| Borussia Dortmund | 29 | 16 | 5 | 8 | 56 | 36 | 53 |
| Bochum | 29 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 44 | 42 | 46 |
| 1860 Munich | 29 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 48 | 44 | 42 |
| Karlsruhe | 29 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 46 | 38 | 41 |
| Schalke | 29 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 33 | 34 | 40 |
| Werder Bremen | 29 | 11 | 6 | 12 | 43 | 45 | 39 |
| Arminia Bielefeld | 29 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 38 | 41 | 37 |
| Duisburg | 29 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 36 | 44 | 36 |
| Borussia MG | 29 | 10 | 5 | 14 | 31 | 37 | 35 |
| Koln | 29 | 10 | 5 | 14 | 47 | 56 | 35 |
| Hamburg | 29 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 40 | 47 | 34 |
| Hansa Rostock | 29 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 31 | 41 | 33 |
| Fortuna Dusseldorf | 29 | 8 | 5 | 16 | 23 | 50 | 29 |
| St Pauli | 29 | 7 | 6 | 16 | 31 | 52 | 27 |
| Freiburg | 29 | 5 | 3 | 21 | 36 | 65 | 18 |

*GERMAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS*

**Energie Cottbus 3** (Kronhardt 65, Irrgang 68, Konetzke 82)
**Karlsruhe 0** Att: 20,000

**Stuttgart 2** (Balakov 15, T. Schneider 60)
**Hamburg 1** (Hartmann 19) Att: 48,000

# HOLLAND

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

**De Graafschap 1** (Van der Haar 50)
**AZ 1** (Snijders 36) Att: 7,825

**NEC 3** (Ellerman 68, Sumiala 73, Maes 79)
**Volendam 0** Att: 3,000

**Roda JC 1** (Sibon 19)
**Utrecht 1** (Hernandez 31) Att: 7,100

**Sparta 0**
**Heerenveen 3** (Meinseth 3, Marilia 18, De Visser 79) Att: 5,000

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Fortuna 0**
**Groningen 2** (Huistra 45, Magno 70) Att: 3,500

**De Graafschap 0**
**Sdparta 2** (Van der Laan 41, Krijgsman 59) Att: 7,950

**Heerenveen 3** (Wouden 75, Korneev 78, Tomassson 81)
**Willem II 1** (Hyypia 90) Att: 13,300

**Feyenoord 0**
**Vitesse 0** Att: 28,300

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**NAC 2** (Arambasic 28, Brood 29)
**PSV 2** (Zenden 18, De Bilde 53) Att: 14,521

**RKC 3** (Kalezic 6, Van Diemen 13, Brands 39)
**Twente 2** (Bosman 44, 74) Att: 4,615

**Utrecht 1** (Mols 40)
**NEC 1** (Sumiala 45) Att: 10,500

**Volendam 0**
**Ajax 3** (Musampa 37, Scholten 65, Wooter 83) Att: 8,000

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Fortuna 1** (Dirkx 59)
**AZ 0** Att: 3,000

**Roda JC 4** (Doomernik 9, 58, Lawal 12, Sibon 19)
**Sparta 1** (Van der Laan 4) Att: 6,500

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**De Graafschap 2** (Van der Haar 69, Breetveld 90)
**NAC 2** (Arambasic 32, Roelofsen 57) Att: 7,400

**PSV 2** (Cocu 15, De Bilde 54)
**Ajax 0** Att: 30,000

**Twente 0**
**Groningen 1** (Huistra 85) Att: 9,000

**Utrecht 2** (Vanenburg 51, Nascimento 64)
**Heerenveen 2** (Talan 13, Echteld 78) Att: 12,000

**Vitesse 1** (Makaay 31)
**Volendam 1** (Samardzic 81) Att: 6,777

**Willem II 0**
**Feyenoord 2** (Fernando 71, Fraser 84) Att: 11,000

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

**Ajax 5** (Bogarde 1, 41, Dani 21, Ronald de Boer 53, Musampa 67)
**NEC 0** Att: 45,000

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**AZ 1** (Den Turk 62)
**Roda JC 3** (Den Turk 62, Martens 71, 80) Att: 7,019

**Feyenoord 4** (Sanchez 11, 79, Vos 45, Koeman 65)
**Fortuna 4** (Jeffrey 2, 50, Paauwe 17, Ricksen 83) Att: 23,784

**NAC 1** (Van Galen 46)
**Vitesse 1** (Mahlas 7) Att: 12,652

**PSV 5** (Cocu 1, Nilis 5, 15, Stam 43, Jonk 68)
**De Graafschap 0** Att: 29,200

**Willem II 1** (Sanou 37)
**Sparta 1** (Groenendijk 47) Att: 6,500

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**Groningen 2** (Huizingh 25, Rosen 29)
**Utrecht 2** (Mols 80, 90) Att: 14,350

**Heerenveen 2** (Echteld 60, Wouden 75)
**RKC 0** Att: 12,950

HOLLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSV | 29 | 20 | 5 | 4 | 76 | 20 | 65 |
| Feyenoord | 29 | 19 | 6 | 4 | 53 | 28 | 63 |
| Twente | 29 | 17 | 4 | 8 | 49 | 27 | 55 |
| Ajax | 28 | 14 | 9 | 5 | 43 | 23 | 51 |
| Heerenveen | 29 | 13 | 11 | 5 | 52 | 34 | 50 |
| Roda JC | 30 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 48 | 38 | 49 |
| Vitesse | 29 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 48 | 34 | 48 |
| NAC | 29 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 39 | 43 | 39 |
| De Graafschap | 29 | 10 | 6 | 13 | 46 | 43 | 36 |
| Utrecht | 29 | 6 | 14 | 9 | 36 | 39 | 32 |
| Groningen | 29 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 34 | 50 | 32 |
| Fortuna | 29 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 28 | 45 | 32 |
| Willem II | 29 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 31 | 45 | 31 |
| Volendam | 29 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 27 | 48 | 30 |
| Sparta | 28 | 8 | 5 | 15 | 31 | 42 | 29 |
| NEC | 30 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 29 | 55 | 25 |
| RKC | 29 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 28 | 57 | 22 |
| AZ | 29 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 22 | 39 | 21 |

# ITALY

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Fiorentina 0**
**Inter 0** Att: 40,631

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Bologna 3** (Kolyvanov pen 44, 61, Andersson 54)
**Reggiana 2** (Valencia 22, Parente pen 90) Att: 23,925

**Cagliari 2** (Tovalieri 6, Dario Silva 45)
**Roma 1** (Carboni 24) Att: 18,393

**Lazio 2** (Signori pen 30, Rambaudi 72)
**Piacenza 0** Att: 33,535

**Milan 1** (Simone 76)
**Juventus 6** (Jugovic 19, 50, Zidane pen 31, Vieri 71, 81, Amoruso 73) Att: 81,170

**Parma 3** (Crespo 34, Sensini 69, Crespo 84)
**Sampdoria 0** Att: 24,385

**Perugia 1** (Rapajic 61)
**Napoli 1** (Aglietti 24) Att: 22,029

**Udinese 2** (Bierhoff 83, Amoroso 84)
**Atalanta 0** Att: 12,498

**Vicenza 0**
**Verona 0** Att: 14,576

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Atalanta 1** (Torrisi og 51)
**Bologna 1** (Scapolo 72) Att: 18,457

**Verona 2** (Maniero 67, De Vitis 80)
**Perugia 0** Att: 12,881

**Inter 3** (Djorkaeff pen 32, Zamorano 43, Ganz 59)
**Milan 1** (Baggio 87) Att: 70,996

**Juventus 0**
**Udinese 3** (Amoroso pen 42, 48, Bierhoff 46) Att: 34,355

**Napoli 1** (Esposito pen 77)
**Cagliari 1** (Tovalieri 83) Att: 36,570

**Piacenza 1** (Luiso 67)
**Fiorentina 1** (Amoruso 56) Att: 11,437

**Reggiana 0**
**Vicenza 0** Att: 10,943

**Roma 0**
**Parma 1** (Crespo 43) Att: 52,560

**Sampdoria 1** (Montella pen 66)
**Lazio 0** Att: 24,383

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Bologna 0**
**Juventus 1** (Boksic 41) Att: 38,000

**Cagliari 1** (Tovalieri 79)
**Inter 2** (Zamorano 42, Ince 50) Att: 25,000

**Fiorentina 2** (Robbiati 7, Petruzzi og 36)
**Roma 1** (Balbo 76) Att: 38,000

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Lazio 6** (Signori 11, Nedved 16, 66, Protti 21, 33, 36)
**Reggiana 1** (Simuntenkov 42) Att: 35,000

**Milan 0**
**Piacenza 0** Att: 40,000

**Napoli 0**
**Atalanta 1** (Inzaghi 21) Att: 40,000

**Parma 0**
**Udinese 2** (Pierini 67, Bierhoff pen 87) Att: 26,000

**Sampdoria 0**
**Verona 0** Att: 20,000

**Vicenza 4** (Ambrosetti 24, Cornacchini 27, Otero 37, Beghetto 47)
**Perugia 1** (Goretti 66) Att: 13,000

ITALY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 28 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 41 | 19 | 55 |
| Parma | 28 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 31 | 22 | 49 |
| Inter | 28 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 40 | 27 | 48 |
| Sampdoria | 28 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 49 | 39 | 44 |
| Lazio | 28 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 38 | 28 | 43 |
| Bologna | 28 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 43 | 35 | 43 |
| Udinese | 28 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 39 | 34 | 41 |
| Vicenza | 28 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 39 | 33 | 39 |
| Fiorentina | 28 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 36 | 30 | 39 |
| Atalanta | 28 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 37 | 35 | 39 |
| Milan | 28 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 36 | 37 | 37 |
| Roma | 28 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 40 | 39 | 36 |
| Napoli | 28 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 30 | 35 | 34 |
| Piacenza | 28 | 5 | 14 | 9 | 21 | 33 | 29 |
| Cagliari | 28 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 33 | 46 | 27 |
| Perugia | 28 | 7 | 6 | 15 | 34 | 53 | 27 |
| Verona | 28 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 33 | 52 | 23 |
| Reggiana | 28 | 2 | 13 | 13 | 25 | 48 | 19 |

# PORTUGAL

MONDAY, MARCH 24

**Estrela Amadora 1** (Gaucho 30)
**Benfica 1** (Joao Pinto 89)

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Benfica 1** (Joao Pinto 15)
**Sporting Lisbon 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Belenenses 1** (M'Jid 82)
**Uniao Leiria 0**

**Gil Vicente 1** (Paulo Vida 47)
**Salgueiros 3** (Fernando Almeida 6, pen 64, Marcos Severo 70)

**Leca 0**
**Farense 0**

**Maritimo 1** (Edvar 88)
**Rio Ave 0**

**FC Porto 3** (Fernando Mendes 31, Jardel 67, 87)
**Espinho 0**

**Sporting Braga 1** (Karoglan 16)
**Estrela Amadora 2** (Gaucho 24, 70)

**Setubal 1** (Mamede 47)
**Chaves 0**

MONDAY, APRIL 7

**Guimaraes 0**
**Boavista 4** (Sanchez pen 10, Litos 62, Hasselbaink 75, Timofte 84)

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

**Farense 1** (Hajry 84 pen)
**FC Porto 2** (Artur 77, 81)

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Boavista 1** (Hasselbaink 5)
**Benfica 1** (Valdir 90)

**Maritimo 1** (Bunbury 90)
**Belenenses 0**

**Sporting Lisbon 1** (Dominguez 53)
**Sporting Braga 0**



SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Chaves 2** (Matute 5, Cuc 89)
**Gil Vicente 0**

**Rio Ave 2** (Coentrao 13, Dibo 69)
**Leca 0**

**Salgueiros 3** (Luis Carlos 3, Toni 68, Marcos Severo 87)
**Vitoria Setubal 2** (Nando 28, Paulo Sergio 64)

**Espinho 1** (Artur Jorge 86)
**Guimaraes 4** (Gilmar 40, Vitor Silva 44, Paneira 68, Paas 84)

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Gil Vicente 0**
**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Paulo Alves 53, 76, Ramirez 90)

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Belenenses 0**
**Chaves 0**

**Benfica 2** (Valdir 13, Valdo pen 64)
**Espinho 0**

**Leca 1** (Fran 12)
**Maritimo 0**

**FC Porto 2** (Jardel 35, Rui Barros 83)
**Rio Ave 2** (Emanuel 3, Martins 70)

**Sporting Braga 1** (Toni 15)
**Boavista 0**

**Uniao Leiria 0**
**Salgueiros 1** (Luis Manuel 37)

**Guimaraes 3** (Paneira pen 28, Milovanovic 49, Jose Carlos 66)
**Farense 2** (Djukic 72, 85)

**Vitoria Setubal 1** (Carlos Manuel 43)
**Estrela Amadora 2** (Gaucho 67, Paulo Ferreira 90)

PORTUGAL

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FC Porto | 28 | 22 | 4 | 2 | 65 | 19 | 70 |
| Sporting | 28 | 19 | 5 | 4 | 46 | 15 | 62 |
| Benfica | 28 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 47 | 22 | 54 |
| Salgueiros | 28 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 42 | 37 | 47 |
| Braga | 28 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 35 | 37 | 46 |
| Guimaraes | 28 | 13 | 6 | 9 | 47 | 40 | 45 |
| Estrela Amadora | 28 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 34 | 29 | 42 |
| Chaves | 28 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 34 | 40 | 37 |
| Boavista | 28 | 8 | 12 | 8 | 44 | 32 | 36 |
| Belenenses | 28 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 34 | 44 | 35 |
| Leca | 28 | 9 | 7 | 12 | 31 | 35 | 34 |
| Maritimo | 28 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 28 | 38 | 33 |
| Setubal | 28 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 31 | 38 | 32 |
| Farense | 28 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 24 | 29 | 31 |
| Espinho | 28 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 22 | 43 | 28 |
| Rio Ave | 28 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 31 | 39 | 26 |
| Uniao Leiria | 28 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 21 | 42 | 23 |
| Gil Vicente | 28 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 24 | 61 | 12 |

*PORTUGUESE CUP – QUARTER–FINALS*

**Benfica 5** (Joao 12, 15, 90, Marinho 21, Valdir 82)
**Sandinense 1** (Landu 54)

**Estoril Praia 0**
**Boavista 1** (Sergio Duarte 17)

**Sporting Braga 0**
**FC Porto 2** (Edmilson 75, 79)

# SCOTLAND

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**Aberdeen 0**
**Motherwell 0** Att: 9,000

**Rangers 4** (Albertz 9, Petric 19, Laudrup 70, Hateley 80)
**Dunfermline 0** Att: 49,832

**Hibernian 2** (Charnley pen 73, McGinlay 78)
**Dundee Utd 0** Att: 11,010

**Kilmarnock 1** (Wright 5)
**Hearts 0** Att: 7,877

**Raith Rovers 1** (Craig 90)
**Celtic 1** (Di Canio 88) Att: 7,912

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Dunfermline 1** (Britton 11)
**Hibernian 1** (Jackson pen 31) Att: 8,752

**Hearts 0**
**Aberdeen 0** Att: 11,186

**Motherwell 5** (Falconer 17, Weir 46, Coyne 53, 74, Coyle 78)
**Raith 0** Att: 4,691

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

**Raith Rovers 0**
**Rangers 6** (Petric 10, Durie 21, 23, Robertson 28, Laudrup 56, McCoist 81) Att: 9,745

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Hearts 1** (Robertson 90)
**Dunfermline 1** (Young 27) Att: 10,174

**Kilmarnock 1** (Wright 14)
**Hibernian 1** (Montgomerie og 45) Att: 10,886

**Motherwell 1** (Coyne pen 36)
**Dundee Utd 1** (Zetterlund 66) Att: 5,382

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Celtic 3** (Cadete 24, 63, Donnelly 51)
**Aberdeen 0** Att: 47,295

SCOTLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rangers | 33 | 24 | 5 | 4 | 83 | 28 | 77 |
| Celtic | 32 | 20 | 5 | 7 | 66 | 31 | 65 |
| Dundee.U | 33 | 16 | 9 | 8 | 45 | 29 | 57 |
| Hearts | 34 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 43 | 41 | 49 |
| Dunfermline | 34 | 11 | 8 | 15 | 46 | 62 | 41 |
| Aberdeen | 34 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 42 | 53 | 40 |
| Kilmarnock | 32 | 11 | 4 | 17 | 39 | 51 | 37 |
| Hibernian | 34 | 9 | 10 | 15 | 36 | 51 | 37 |
| Motherwell | 34 | 8 | 10 | 16 | 40 | 53 | 34 |
| Raith Rovers | 34 | 6 | 6 | 22 | 28 | 69 | 24 |

*SCOTTISH CUP – SEMI-FINALS*

**Celtic 1** (Johnson 66)
**Falkirk 1** (James 82) Att: 45,261

**Kilmarnock 0**
**Dundee Utd 0** Att: 12,391

# SPAIN

MONDAY, MARCH 24

**Sporting Gijon 2** (Tomas 42, Luna 47)
**Valencia 1** (Vlaovic 80) Att: 14,000

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

**Real Sociedad 1** (Aranzabal 27)
**La Coruna 1** (Rivaldo 65) Att: 18,000

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

**Compostela 4** (Penev 5, 35, Ohen 21, Nacho 83)
**Extremadura 0** Att: 9,000

**Espanyol 0**
**Real Betis 0** Att: 25,000

**Logrones 1** (Ruben Sosa 7)
**Athletic Bilbao 4** (Ciganda 10, 74, Urzaiz 38, 67) Att: 13,000

**Racing Santander 1** (Correa 54)
**Hercules 2** (Alfaro pen 69, 75) Att: 14,000

**Real Oviedo 0**
**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Ezequiel Castillo 45, Guilherme 78) Att: 10,000

**Real Zaragoza 1** (Morientes 10)
**Celta Vigo 1** (Moises 8) Att: 28,000

**Sevilla 2** (Jose Mari 22, Salva 81)
**Real Valladolid 2** (Fernandso 30, Quevedo 75) Att: 48,210

**Tenerife 1** (Neuville 66)
**Real Madrid 1** (Victor 59) Att: 22,000

**Valencia 1** (Leandro 40)
**Barcelona 1** (Ronaldo 69) Att: 45,000

MONDAY, MARCH 31

**Atletico Madrid 2** (Caminero 11, Kiko 40)
**Sporting Gijon 1** (David Cano 65) Att: 25,000

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Celta Vigo 3** (Merino 6, Mostovoj 46, Mazinho 68)
**Tenerife 1** (Pinilla 32) Att: 15,000

**Real Oviedo 4** (Oli 3, pen 21, Ivan 25, 45)
**Atletico Madrid 1** (Esnaider 48) Att: 13,000

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Athletic Bilbao 0**
**Sevilla 0** Att: 28,600

**Barcelona 4** (Giovanni 14, De La Pena 45, Ronaldo 62, Pizzi 90)
**Sporting Gijon 0** Att: 90,000

**La Coruna 1** (Rivaldo 33)
**Real Zaragoza 0** Att: 22,000

**Extremadura 3** (Pedro Jose 34, Dure 85, Quique Estebaranz 89)
**Logrones 0** Att: 9,500

**Hercules 2** (Alfaro 2, Maestri 87)
**Real Socidad 1** (Pikabea 66) Att: 20,000

**Rayo Vallecano 0**
**Espanyol 1** (Pochettino 18) Att: 10,000

**Real Betis 2** (Alberto og 6, Alfonso 39)
**Racing Santander 2** (Merino 44, Alberto 88) Att: 40,000

**Real Valladolid 4** (Benjamin 12, 38, Fernando 15, Quevedo 68)
**Valencia 1** (Vlaovic 76) Att: 24,000

MONDAY, APRIL 7

**Real Madrid 0**
**Compostela 0** Att: 55,000

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Sevilla 0**
**Extremadura 0** Att: 45,000

**Tenerife 2** (Vivar Dorado 8, Alexis 85)
**La Coruna 1** (Rivaldo 84) Att: 16,000

**Valencia 5** (Ortega pen 2, pen 26, Leandro 3, 34, Moya 29)
**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Uraiz 43, 65) Att: 40,000

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Atletico Madrid 2** (Kiko 12, 63)
**Barcelona 5** (De la Pena 40, Ronaldo 42, 58, pen 75, Figo 88) Att: 52,000

**Compostela 2** (Penev 38, Ohen 60)
**Celta 1** (Bajcetic 33) Att: 13,000

**Logrones 0**
**Real Madrid 2** (Victor 35, Raul 66) Att: 15,000

**Racing Santander 1** (Alberto 12)
**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Klimowicz pen 80, Guilherme 88) Att: 15,000

**Real Sociedad 0**
**Real Betis 1** (Josete 90) Att: 22,000

**Real Zaragoza 2** (Kiki Gonzalez 22, Radimov 83)
**Hercules 0** Att: 35,000

**Sporting Gijon 1** (Tsjerysjev 89)
**Real Valladolid 2** (Benjamin 64, Fernando 84) Att: 19,997

MONDAY, APRIL 14

**Espanyol 2** (Tamudo 48, Lardin 61)
**Real Oviedo 0** Att: 18,000

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

**Extremadura 1** (Juanito pen 24)
**Valencia 0** Att: 10,740

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

**Athletic Bilbao 4** (Larrazabal pen 42, Urzaiz 46, 57, Guerrero 72)
**Sporting Gijon 0** Att: 30,000

**Celta Vigo 4** (Ddutuel 40, Revivo 45, Mazinho 80, Geli 90)
**Logrones 0** Att: 14,000

**La Coruna 1** (Rivaldo 48)
**Compostela 0** Att: 26,000

**Hercules 3** (Pavlicic 19, Paquito 53, Alfaro pen 66)
**Tenerife 1** (Kodro 60) Att: 13,000

**Rayo Vallevano 1** (Guilherme 65)
**Real Sociedad 0** Att: 6,000

**Betis Sevilla 2** (Alfonso 4, pen 28)
**Real Zaragoza 2** (Nayim 31, Aragon pen 83) Att: 35,000

**Real Madrid 4** (Seedorf 45, Raul 60, Hierro 83, Mijatovic 90)
**Sevilla 2** (Jose Mari 1, Oulida 21) Att: 75,000

**Real Valladolid 3** (Fernando 30, Victor 46, 77)
**Barcelona 1** (Ronaldo 6) Att: 26,000

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

**Espanyol 0**
**Atletico Madrid 0** Att: 15,000

**Real Oviedo 1** (Ivan 32)
**Racing Santander 5** (Besthastnich 17, Zalazar 38, Merino 49, Correa 86, 89) Att: 13,000

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Tenerife 0**
**Real Betis 1** (Jokanovic og 27) Att: 16,000

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Atletico Madrid 3** (Aguilera 21, 87, Caminero 84)
**Real Valladolid 1** (Quevedo 89) Att: 15,000

**Barcelona 2** (Abelardo 49, Ronaldo 64)
**Athletic Bilbao 0** Att: 65,000

**Compostela 2** (Ohen 1, 82)
**Hercules 2** (Amato 58, Vilena og 88) Att: 8,500

**Logrones 1** (Ruben Sosa 74)
**La Coruna 2** (Rivaldo pen 11, 68) Att: 14,000

**Racing Santander 1** (Alberto 48)
**Espanyol 1** (Ouedec 68) Att: 15,000

**Real Sociedad 1** (Craioveanu 23)
**Real Oviedo 0** Att: 18,000

**Real Zaragoza 3** (Poyet 42, Morientes 52, 82)
**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Guilherme 3, 19) Att: 25,000

**Sevilla 2** (Oulida 26, Prosinecki 73)
**Celta Vigo 0** Att: 41,400

**Sporting Gijon 1** (Tsjersjev 50)
**Extremadura 1** (Dure 56) Att: 20,532

SPAIN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Madrid | 35 | 23 | 11 | 1 | 73 | 28 | 80 |
| Barcelona | 35 | 22 | 6 | 7 | 88 | 43 | 72 |
| Real Betis | 35 | 20 | 11 | 4 | 74 | 36 | 71 |
| Deportivo | 35 | 19 | 12 | 4 | 52 | 25 | 69 |
| Atletico Madrid | 34 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 64 | 50 | 59 |
| Valladolid | 35 | 15 | 9 | 11 | 50 | 42 | 54 |
| Athletic | 35 | 12 | 15 | 8 | 63 | 51 | 51 |
| Real Sociedad | 35 | 14 | 8 | 13 | 40 | 38 | 50 |
| Tenerife | 34 | 13 | 8 | 13 | 55 | 42 | 47 |
| Valencia | 35 | 13 | 8 | 14 | 53 | 49 | 47 |
| Racing | 35 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 44 | 40 | 46 |
| Celta | 35 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 43 | 44 | 42 |
| Compostela | 35 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 39 | 56 | 41 |
| Zaragoza | 35 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 46 | 55 | 40 |
| Extremadura | 35 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 30 | 48 | 40 |
| Espanyol | 35 | 10 | 9 | 16 | 37 | 47 | 39 |
| Rayo Vallecano | 35 | 11 | 6 | 18 | 36 | 50 | 39 |
| Oviedo | 35 | 10 | 8 | 17 | 41 | 58 | 38 |
| Sporting | 35 | 9 | 9 | 17 | 36 | 59 | 36 |
| Hercules | 35 | 9 | 5 | 21 | 34 | 64 | 32 |
| Sevilla | 35 | 8 | 6 | 21 | 33 | 60 | 30 |
| Logrones | 35 | 8 | 4 | 23 | 27 | 73 | 28 |

*COPA DEL REY – SEMI-FINALS, 1ST LEG*

**Real Betis 1** (Bjelica 72)
**Celta Vigo 0** Att: 34,000

**Las Palmas 0**
**Barcelona 4** (Ronaldo pen 42, Pizzi 55, De La Pena 74, Ronaldo 76) Att: 23,000

*COPA DEL REY – SEMI-FINALS, 2ND LEG*

**Barcelona 3** (Oscar 13, Luis Enrique 28, Fernando Couto 64)
**Las Palmas 0** Att: 30,000
*Barcelona 7-0 on agg*

**Celta Vigo 1** (Ratkovic 33)
**Real Betis 1** (Alexis 87) Att: 33,000
*Betis 2-1 on agg*

# SWITZERLAND

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

**Aarau 2** (Bader 49, De Napoli 87)
**Lausanne 0** Att: 3,600

**Neuchatel Xamax 3** (Kunz 19, Wittl 65, Cyprien 90)
**Basel 0** Att: 8,800

**Sion 2** (Ouattara 3, 74)
**St Gallen 1** (Contini 9) Att: 9,800

**Zurich 0**
**Grasshopper 2** (Gren pen 52, Smiljanic 88) Att: 10,400

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Basel 1** (Giallanza 67)
**St Gallen 2** (Regtop 81, 88) Att: 7,400

**Lausanne 3** (Sane 22, 77, Rehn 28)
**Grasshopper 2** (Subiat 12, Moldovan 65) Att: 13,500

**Zurich 0**
**Aarau 0**

**Sion 3** (Rothenbuhler og 43, Bonvin 45, Lukic 58)
**Neuchatel Xamax 1** (Kunz 15) Att: 14,500

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Grasshopper 8** (M. Yakin 24, 56, Comisetti 49, Lombardo 53, Turkyilmaz 70, 90, Esposito 76, Moldovan 85)
**St Gallen 0** Att: 6,700

**Laussane 2** (Hanzi 17, Sane 83)
**Basel 0** Att: 8,000

**Neuchatel Xamax 2** (Lesniak 18, Roembiak og 40)
**Aarau 1** (De Napoli 37) Att: 7,200

**Sion 3** (Chassot 26, Lukic 74, Wicky 78)
**Zurich 1** (Castillo 66) Att: 11,000

SWITZERLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Neuchatel | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 9 | 37 |
| Sion | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 6 | 36 |
| Grasshopper | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 10 | 34 |
| Lausanne | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 33 |
| Aarau | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 27 |
| St Gallen | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 22 |
| Basle | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 19 |
| Zurich | 8 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 17 |

### SWISS CUP

**Basel 1 Servette 4**
**Etoile Carouge 3 SC Kriens 2**
**Freiburg 1 Winterthuyr 0**
**Monthey 2 Lucerne 3**
**Sion 2 Grasshoppers 1**
**FC Wil 2 Lausanne 3**
**Yverdon Spors 0 St Gallen 1**
**Schaffhausen 0 Aarau 0 aet**
*Schaffhausen won on penalties*

## BULGARIA

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

**Maritsa 0 Botev Plovdiv 1**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

**Slavia 3 Levski Kjustendil 0; Montana 4 Lokomotiv Sofia 3; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Etur 0; Neftokhimik 3 Spartak Pleven 1; Dobrudzha 3 Sparta Varna 0; Rakovski 0 Levski 1; CSKA 2 Minjor 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Levski 4 Montana 1; Spartak Varna 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Etur 5 Rakovski 0; Minjor 2 Dobrudzha 0; Spartak Pleven 2 Maritsa 0; Botev 1 Slavia 0; Levski Kjustendil 0 CSKA 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 2 Neftokhimik 2**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**CSKA1 Botev 0; Dobrudzha 2 Levski Kjustendil 0; Maritsa 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 2; Minjor 1 Spartak Varna 0; Montana 2 Etur 1; Neftohimik 4 Levski 1; Rakovski 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1; Slavia 1 Spartak Pleven 2**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Botev 3 Dobrudzha 0; Etur 0 Neftohimik 0; Levski Kjustendilj 5 Minjor 1; Levski Sofia 2 Maritsa 2; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Montana 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 2 Slavia 3; Spartak Plovdiv 1 CSKA 1; Spartak Varna 4 Rakovski 0**

BULGARIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CSKA | 25 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 47 | 14 | 61 |
| Neftohimik | 25 | 16 | 6 | 3 | 50 | 16 | 54 |
| Levski Sofia | 25 | 14 | 9 | 2 | 57 | 23 | 51 |
| Slavia | 25 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 42 | 19 | 47 |
| Minyor | 25 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 25 | 29 | 39 |
| Lokomotiv Sofia | 25 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 48 | 37 | 37 |
| Spartak Varna | 25 | 11 | 3 | 11 | 29 | 31 | 36 |
| Levski Kyustendil | 25 | 11 | 2 | 12 | 38 | 42 | 35 |
| Lokomotiv Plovdiv | 25 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| Dobrudzha | 25 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 31 | 36 | 32 |
| Botev | 25 | 9 | 3 | 13 | 27 | 36 | 30 |
| Spartak Pleven | 25 | 9 | 3 | 13 | 26 | 36 | 30 |
| Etur | 25 | 8 | 3 | 14 | 26 | 40 | 27 |
| Maritsa | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 28 | 36 | 26 |
| Montana | 25 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 28 | 40 | 25 |
| Rakovski | 25 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 7 | 73 | 1 |

## CZECH REP

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

**Slavia Prague-Sparta Prague 1-1**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

**Viktoria Zizkov 1 Sigma Olomouc 0; Kaucuk Opava 1 Ceske Budejovice 1; Hradec Kralove 1 Teplice 0; Jablonec 1 Karvina 0; Banik Ostrava 0 Slovan Liberec 0; Bohemians 1 Boby Brno 1; Viktoria Plzen 2 Petra Drnovice 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Sigma Olomouc 3 Viktoria Plzen 0; Petra Drnovice 6 Bohemians 0; Boby Brno 3 Banik Ostrava 2; Sparta Prague 6 Jablonec 0; Karvina Vitkovice 0 Hradec Kralove 0; Teplice 1 Kaucuk Opava 0; Ceske Budejovice 1 Viktoria Zizkov 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Ceske Budejovice 3 Sigma Olomouc 1; Viktoria Zizkov 0 Teplice 0; Kaucuk Opava 1 Karvina Vitkovice 0; Hradec Kralove 0 Sparta Prague 3; Slavia Prague 4 Boby Brno 0; Banik Ostrava 1 Petra Drnovice 1; Bohemians 2 Viktoria Plzen 2**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Sigma Olomouc 0 Bohemians 0; Viktoria Plzen 0 Banik Ostrava 0; Petra Drnovice 1 Slavia Prague 4; Boby Brno 3 Jablonec 0; Slovan Liberec 4 Hradec Kralove 1; Sparta Prague 5 Kaucuk Opava 1; Karvina 0 Viktoria Zizkov 1; Teplice 0 Ceske Budejovice 0**

CZECH REPUBLIC

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sparta Prague | 25 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 49 | 17 | 52 |
| Slavia Prague | 25 | 14 | 7 | 4 | 50 | 22 | 49 |
| Slovan Liberec | 24 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 25 | 42 |
| Jablonec | 24 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 32 | 25 | 41 |
| Ceske Budejovice | 25 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 34 | 27 | 40 |
| Boby Brno | 25 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 32 | 31 | 39 |
| Sigma Olomouc | 25 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 29 | 22 | 36 |
| Petra Drnovice | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 46 | 39 | 36 |
| Kaucuk Opava | 25 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 27 | 27 | 34 |
| Banik Ostrava | 25 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 31 | 29 | 33 |
| Teplice | 25 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 20 | 31 | 27 |
| Viktoria Plzen | 25 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 23 | 33 | 25 |
| Viktoria Zizkov | 25 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 27 | 23 |
| Hradec Kralove | 25 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 16 | 33 | 20 |
| Bohemians | 25 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 21 | 43 | 18 |
| Karvina | 25 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 17 | 41 | 17 |

## CROATIA

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

**Dragovoljac 0 Zagreba 0** *(Match abandoned in 73rd minute)*; **Marsonia 2 Hajduk 1; Varteks 0 Rijeka 0; Osijek 2 Mladost 127 1; Sibenik 5 Cibalia 0; Orijent 1 Segesta 1; Istra 3 Zadarkomerc 0; Zagreb 4 Inker 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Cibalia 1 Osijek 2; Hajduk 1 Croatia 2; Inker 1 Istra 0; Mladost 127 3 Varteks 0; Rijeka 5 Marsonia 3; Segesta 1 Sibenik 0; Zadarkomerc 1 Orijent 0; Zagreb 4 Dragovoljac 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Croatia 3 Rijeka 0; Dragovoljac0 Hajduk 0; Istra 3 Zagreb 2; Marsonia 2 Mladost 127 0; Orijent 1 Inker 1; Osijek 1 Segesta 1; Sibenik 2 Zadarkomerc 1; Varteks 2 Cibalia 0**

CROATIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Croatia | 23 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 72 | 19 | 60 |
| Hajduk | 23 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 43 | 12 | 52 |
| Zagreb | 23 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 37 | 26 | 40 |
| Rijeka | 23 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 33 | 26 | 35 |
| Mladost 127 | 23 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 31 | 24 | 34 |
| Dragovoljac | 23 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 36 | 30 | 33 |
| Segesta | 23 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 29 | 24 | 31 |
| Osijek | 23 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Marsonia | 23 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 28 | 42 | 30 |
| Zadarkomerc | 23 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 28 | 35 | 29 |
| Cibalia | 23 | 9 | 0 | 14 | 26 | 43 | 27 |
| Sibenik | 23 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 22 | 26 | 26 |
| Varteks | 23 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 23 | 32 | 25 |
| Inker | 23 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 16 | 43 | 21 |
| Istra | 23 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 20 | 43 | 20 |
| Orijent | 23 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 39 | 19 |

## DENMARK

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

**Aarhus 0 Aalborg 1; Viborg 1 Copenhagen 0; Herfolge 1 Odense 1**

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

**Silkeborg 1 Vejle 1**

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

**Odense 2 Viborg 1**

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

**Brondby 2 Silkeborg 2**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Aarhus 0 Aalborg 1; Viborg 1 Copenhagen 0; Herfolge 1 Odense 1**

MONDAY, APRIL 7

**Lyngby 2 Hvidovre 1; Vejle 1 Aalborg 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Odense 0 Vejle 2; Hvidovre 2 Aarhus 2; Aalborg 3 Viborg 1; Aarhus 2 Brondby 2; Copenhagen 1 Herfolge 1; Silkeborg 3 Lyngby 1**

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

**Aalborg 0 Lyngby 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Copenhagen 1 Hvidovre 0; Odense 1 Aarhus 1; Aalborg 3 Viborg 1; Silkeborg 1 Herfolge 0; Brondby 2 Vejle 0**

DENMARK

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brondby | 24 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 41 | 30 | 45 |
| Aalborg | 24 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 41 | 28 | 43 |
| Aarhus | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 53 | 35 | 37 |
| Odense | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 46 | 38 | 37 |
| Vejle | 24 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 39 | 30 | 35 |
| Herfolge | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 28 | 28 | 35 |
| Lyngby | 24 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 36 | 41 | 34 |
| Silkeborg | 24 | 5 | 13 | 6 | 32 | 40 | 28 |
| Copenhagen | 24 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 25 | 34 | 24 |
| Aalborg | 24 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 33 | 45 | 23 |
| Viborg | 24 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 43 | 23 |
| Hvidovre | 24 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 26 | 35 | 21 |

## GREECE

MONDAY, MARCH 24

**Edessaikos 0 AEK 2**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

**Paniliakos 2 Veria 0; Kalamata 2 Heracles 0; PAOK 1 Panathinaikos 0; Apollon 0 OFI 0; Olympiakos 4 Ionikos 1; Athinaikos 3 Kastoria 0; AEK 5 Aris 1; Panahaiki 1 Kavala 2; Edessaikos 1 Xanthi 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Veria 1 PAOK 2; Iraklis 2 Apollon 1; Panathinaikos 0 Olympiakos 2; OFI 3 Athinaikos 1 Ionikos 0 AEK 0; Kastoria 0 Panahaiki 0; Aris 2 Xanthi 1; Kavala 2 Edessaikos 2**

MONDAY, APRIL 7

**Kalamata 0 Paniliakos 2**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Paniliakos 0 PAOK 2; Apollon 3 Kalamata 0; Olympiakos 2 Veria 0; Athinaikos 2 Heracles 0; AEK 3 Panathinaikos 0; Panahaiki 2 OFI 0; Xanthi 3 Ionikos 0; Edessaikos 2 Kastoria 0; Aris 1 Kavala 3**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Apollon 2 Paniliakos 0; PAOK 0 Olympiakos 0; Kalamata 0 Athinaikos 0; Heracles 0 Panahaiki 0 Panathinaikos 1 Xanthi 2; OFI 2 Edessaikos 1; Ionikos 2 Kavala 2; Kastoria 0 Aris 3**

MONDAY, APRIL 21

**Veria 1 AEK 1**

GREECE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Olympiakos | 30 | 22 | 6 | 2 | 54 | 11 | 72 |
| AEK | 30 | 20 | 6 | 4 | 70 | 23 | 66 |
| OFI | 30 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 44 | 24 | 59 |
| Panathinaikos | 30 | 17 | 3 | 10 | 46 | 24 | 54 |
| PAOK | 30 | 15 | 9 | 6 | 38 | 26 | 54 |
| Kavala | 30 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 41 | 30 | 52 |
| Paniliakos | 30 | 13 | 5 | 12 | 38 | 38 | 44 |
| Ionikos | 30 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 33 | 40 | 38 |
| Xanthi | 30 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 45 | 46 | 36 |
| Apollon | 30 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 33 | 37 | 36 |
| Heracles | 30 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 36 | 45 | 36 |
| Veroia | 30 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 27 | 28 | 35 |
| Panahaiki | 30 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 27 | 35 | 34 |
| Kalamata | 30 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 31 | 50 | 33 |
| Aris | 30 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 27 | 44 | 31 |
| Athinaikos | 30 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 30 | 52 | 31 |
| Edessaikos | 30 | 7 | 7 | 16 | 33 | 50 | 28 |
| Kastoria | 30 | 1 | 5 | 24 | 11 | 61 | 8 |

## HUNGARY

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

**BVSC 3 Haladas 2**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

**Debrecen 0 Kispest Honved 0; Gyor 1 Siofok 1; III.ker.TVE 2 Zalaegerszeg 1; Pecs 2 Vac 0; Ujpest 0 MTK 2; Ferencvaros 4 Csepel 2; Haladas 2 Bekescsaba 0; Vasas 2 Stadler 1; Videoton 2 BVSC 0**

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

**Bekescsaba 3 Zalaegerszeg 1; Csepel 0 Pecs 1; Stadler 0 Ferencvaros 0; Kispest Honved 1 Gyor 1; Vac 0 Ujpest 1; BVSC 0 Vasas 1; MTK 1 Debrecen 0; Haladas 0 Videoton 0**

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

**Siofok 2 III.ker.TVE 1**

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Pecs 2 Stadler 0; Ujpest 6 Csepel 1; Debrecen 1 Vac 2; Gyor 0 MTK 3; Zalaegerszeg 1 Siofok 2; Videoton 1 Bekescsaba 0; Vasas 1 Haladas 0; Ferencvaros 2 BVSC 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**III.ker.TVE 1 Kispest Honved 2**

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

**Videoton 2 Vasas 2**

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Bekescsaba 1 Siofok 1; Kispest Honved 0; Zalaegerszeg 1; MTK 2 III.ker.TVE 1; Vac 3 Gyor 1; Csepel 0 Debrecen 0; Stadler 1 Ujpest 3; Haladas 1 Ferencvaros 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**BVSC 1 Pecs 0**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

**Debrecen 3 Stadler 1; Gyor 5 Csepel 0; III.ker.TVE 1 Vac 2; Zalaegerszeg 3 MTK 3; Siofok 1 Kispest Honved 0; Vasas 1 Bekescsaba 0; Ferencvaros 2 Videoton 2; Pecs 1 Haladas 0; Ujpest 0 BVSC 0**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Kispest Honved 2 Bekescsaba 2; MTK 0 Siofok 0; Vac 1 Zalaegerszeg 1; Csepel 2 III.ker.TVE 1; Stadler 0 Gyor 1; BVSC 2 Debrecen 0; Haladas 1 Ujpest 2; Videoton 5 Pecs 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Vasas 1 Ferencvaros 1**

HUNGARY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MTK | 27 | 22 | 4 | 1 | 70 | 18 | 70 |
| Ujpest | 27 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 60 | 25 | 62 |
| Vasas | 27 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 41 | 20 | 59 |
| Ferencvaros | 27 | 17 | 7 | 3 | 55 | 31 | 58 |
| BVSC | 27 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 33 | 26 | 41 |
| Debrecen | 27 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 38 | 27 | 39 |
| Kispest Honved | 27 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 32 | 35 | 37 |
| Videoton | 27 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 35 | 30 | 36 |
| Vac | 27 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 33 | 36 | 35 |
| Gyor | 27 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 35 | 41 | 34 |
| Haladas | 27 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 33 | 29 | 33 |
| Zalaegerszeg | 27 | 9 | 3 | 15 | 28 | 46 | 30 |
| Siofok | 27 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 24 | 43 | 29 |
| Bekescsaba | 27 | 7 | 5 | 15 | 30 | 47 | 26 |
| III.ker.TVE | 27 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 34 | 47 | 24 |
| Pecs | 27 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 22 | 52 | 24 |
| Csepel | 27 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 35 | 55 | 20 |
| Stadler | 27 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 16 | 46 | 15 |

## NORWAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Stabæk 4 Lillestrom 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Haugesund 1 Tromso 1; Lyn 1 Kongsvinger 2; Rosenborg 1 Brann 1; Stromsgodset 4 Skeid 0; Viking 2 Sogndal 2**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Lillestrom 2 Rosenborg 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Brann 3 Bodo/Glimt 1; Kongsvinger 2 Haugesund 1; Stromsgodset 2 Molde 0; Skeid 1 Viking 2; Sogndal 2 Lyn 1**

## POLAND

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

**Rakow 2 LKS 1; Legia 2 Stomil 1; Amica 1 Belchatow 0; Katowice 1 Hutnik 0; Widzew 4 Polonia 0; Sokol 0 Odra 3; Wisla 1 Lech 1; Wroclaw 1 Ruch 1; Zaglebie 1 Gornik 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Gornik 3 Wisla 1; Lech 1 Sokol 0; Odra 3 Slask 1; Ruch 1 Widzew 2; Polonia 1 Katowice 1; Hutnik 0 Amica 0; Belchatov 0 Legia 1; Stomil 0 Rakow 1; LKS 2 Zaglebie 1**

APRIL 13

**LKS 4 Gornik 1; Zaglebie 1 Stomil 0; Rakow 1 Belchatov 2; Legia 2 Hutnik 0; Amica 0 Polonia 1; Katowice 1 Ruch 0; Widzew 2 Odra 1; Slask 1 Lech 0; Sokol 0 Wisla 1**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Gornik 6 Sokol 0; Lech 1 Widzew 2; Odra 0 Katowice 0; Polonia 1 Legia 1; Hutnik 3 Raków 1; Belchatov 1 Zaglebie 0; Stomil 1 LKS 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Wisla 1 Slask 0; Ruch 2 Amica 2**

POLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legia | 26 | 18 | 4 | 4 | 45 | 20 | 58 |
| Widzew | 26 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 49 | 15 | 57 |
| Katowice | 26 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 34 | 26 | 44 |
| Odra | 26 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 41 | 34 | 41 |
| Amica | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 32 | 33 | 39 |
| Polonia | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 28 | 32 | 39 |
| LKS | 26 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 38 | 33 | 37 |
| Stomil | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 33 | 32 | 35 |
| Zaglebie | 26 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 30 | 30 | 35 |
| Lech | 26 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 30 | 30 | 34 |
| Wisla | 26 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 22 | 26 | 34 |
| Belchatov | 26 | 9 | 5 | 12 | 31 | 34 | 32 |
| Rakow | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 24 | 30 | 32 |
| Gornik | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 31 | 38 | 29 |
| Hutnik | 26 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 21 | 27 | 28 |
| Ruch | 26 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 24 | 31 | 23 |
| Slask | 26 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 21 | 38 | 21 |
| Sokol | 26 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 43 | 21 |

## ROMANIA

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Poli Timisoara 0 Jiul 1; Univ Craiova 1 Arges 3; Dinamo 2 Otelul 0; Univ Cluj 1 Sportul 4; Ceahlaul 4 Farul 2; Bacau 1 Rapid 0; Steaua 3 Brasov 0; National 4 Petrolul 1; Chindia 0 Gloria 1**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

**Petrolul 1 Chindia 1; Gloria 1 Steaua 1; Dinamo 2 Univ Craiova 0; Arges 1 Poli Timisoara 0; Jiul 2 Univ Cluj 1; Farul 4 Bacau 0; Brasov 1 Ceahlaul 0; Otelul 1 Rapid 1; Sportul 0 National 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Poli Timisoara 3 Dinamo 0; National 4 Jiul 0; Univ Cluj 0 Arges 1; Univ Craiova 2 Otelul 0; Chindia 1 Sportul 0; Bacau 1 Brasov 0; Rapid 2 Farul 0; Ceahlaul 0 Gloria 0; Steaua 3 Petrolul 0**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Dinamo 3 Univ Cluj 0; Otelul 1 Farul 0; Sportul 0 Steaua 3; Jiul 2 Chindia 1; Gloria 2 Bacau 1; Univ Craiova 0 Poli Timisoara 0; Petrolul 1 Ceahlaul 0; Arges 0 National 0; Brasov 1 Rapid 1**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

**National 2 Dinamo 1; Univ Cluj 3 Univ Craiova 0; Chindia 2 Arges 1; Farul 1 Brasov 0; Poli Timisoara 3 Otelul 0; Rapid 1 Gloria 1; Bacau 1 Petrolul 0; Ceahlaul 1 Sportul 0; Steaua 6 Jiul 2**

ROMANIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| National | 27 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 53 | 27 | 56 |
| Steaua | 27 | 17 | 4 | 6 | 61 | 31 | 55 |
| Dinamo | 27 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 44 | 24 | 47 |
| Otelul | 27 | 12 | 6 | 9 | 38 | 35 | 42 |
| Arges | 27 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 35 | 28 | 41 |
| Ceahlaul | 27 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 39 | 37 | 40 |
| Bacau | 27 | 12 | 4 | 11 | 34 | 35 | 40 |
| Univ Cluj | 27 | 11 | 4 | 12 | 48 | 47 | 37 |
| Chindia | 27 | 11 | 4 | 12 | 27 | 35 | 37 |
| Jiul | 27 | 11 | 4 | 12 | 30 | 51 | 37 |
| Rapid | 27 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 37 | 36 | 36 |
| Farul | 27 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 33 | 36 | 33 |
| Petrolul | 27 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 38 | 42 | 33 |
| Univ Craiova | 27 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 28 | 33 | 32 |
| Gloria | 27 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 35 | 40 | 34 |
| Sportul | 27 | 9 | 4 | 14 | 27 | 39 | 31 |
| Poli Timisoara | 27 | 7 | 5 | 15 | 33 | 47 | 26 |
| Brasov | 27 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 30 | 47 | 23 |

## RUSSIA

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

**Lokomotiv M 1 Baltika 1; Lokomotiv NN 0 Krylya Sovetov 1; Dinamo 2 CSKA 0; Alania 5 KamAZ-Chally 0; Zhemchuzhina 0 Spartak 1; Rotor 1 Chernomorets 1**

MONDAY, MARCH 17

**FK Tyumen 0 Rostselmash 1; Fakel 0 Zenit 1; Shinnik 1 Torpedo-Luzhniki 3**

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

**Baltika 1 Lokomotiv NN 0; Krylya Sovetov 1 Fakel 0; KamAZ-Chally 0 Rotor 5**

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

**Rostselmash 2 Lokomotiv M 2; Spartak 3 Shinnik 0; Zenit 0 Dinamo 0; CSKA 2 Alania 1; Chernomorets 2 Zhemchuzhina 2; Torpedo-Luzhniki 1 FK Tyumen 1**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

**Lokomotiv NN 0 Rostselmash 1; Lokomotiv M 3 FK Tyumen 1; Rotor 1 CSKA 0; Dinamo 0 Krylya Sovetov 1; Shinnik 1 Chernomorets 0; Zhemchuzhina 1 KamAZ-Chally 0; Fakel 0 Baltika 2; Alania 0 Zenit 2; Torpedo-Luzniki 0 Spartak 3**

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

**Rostselmash 2 Fakel 0; Lokomotiv M 1 Lokomotiv NN 1; Baltika 0 Dinamo 2; Krylya Sovetov 1 Alania 3; Zenit 0 Rotor 1; CSKA 1 Zhemchuzhina 1; KamAZ 3 Chally-Shinnik 0; Chernomorets 2 Torpedo-Luzhniki 1; FK Tyumen 2 Spartak 2**

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Dinamo 1 Rostselmash 0; Fakel 1 Lokomotiv M 0; Lokomotiv NN 1 Tyumen 0; Alania 0 Baltika 0; Rotor 1 Krylya Sovetov 1; Zhemchuzhina 1 Zenit 0; Shinnik 0 CSKA 1; Torpedo-Luzhniki 2 KamAZ-Chally 0; Spartak 3 Chernomorets 0**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Rostselmash 1 Alania 0; Lokomotiv M 2 Dinamo 1; Lokomotiv NN 1 Fakel 0; Baltika 0 Rotor 1; Krylya Sovetov 0 Zhemchuzhina 1; Zenit 1 Shinnik 1; CSKA 0 Torpedo-Luzhniki 5; KamAZ 2 Chally-Spartak 1; FK Tyumen 0 Chernomorets 0**

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

**Rotor 0 Rostselmash 2; Alania 1 Lokomotiv M 2; Dinamo 3 Lokomotiv NN 0; Fakel 1 FK Tyumen 0; Zhemchuzhina 0 Baltika 0; Shinnik 1 Krylya Sovetov 0; Torpedo-Luzhniki 1 Zenit 2; Spartak 0 CSKA 0; Chernomorets 1 KamAZ-Chally 0**

RUSSIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rostselmash | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 16 |
| Spartak | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 14 |
| Rotor | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ? | 14 |
| Dinamo | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 13 |
| Lokomotiv M | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 12 |
| Zhemchuzhina | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 12 |
| Zenit | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 11 |
| Torpedo-Luzhniki | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 10 |
| Krylya Sovetov | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 10 |
| Baltika | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Chernomorets | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| CSKA | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 8 |
| Alania | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| Lokomotiv NN | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Shinnik | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 7 |
| KamAZ-Chally | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 6 |
| Fakel | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| FK Tyumen | 7 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 3 |

## SWEDEN

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Ljungskile 2 Norrkoping 1; Malmo 2 Vasteras 0**

MONDAY, APRIL 7

**AIK 2 Helsingborg 1; Elfsborg 3 Gothenburg 0; Orgryte 2 Trelleborg 0; Oster 1 Orebro 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Halmstad 3 Malmo 1; Helsingborg 2 Oster 0; Norrkoping 2 Degerfors 0; Orebro 3 Ljungskile 1**

MONDAY, APRIL 14

**Vasteras 0 Elfsborg 3; Gothenburg 2 Orgryte 0; Trelleborg 0 AIK 3**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Elfsborg 3 Halmstad 1; Ljungskile 0 Helsingborg 1; Orebro 2 Norrkoping 3; Oster 3 Trelleborg 3**

MONDAY, APRIL 21

**AIK 0 Gothenburg 0 Malmo 2 Degerfors 0; Orgryte 2 Vasteras 1**

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

**Degerfors 2 Elfsborg 2; Halmstad 3 Orgryte 1; Vasteras 1 AIK 1; Gothenburg 3 Oster 0; Trelleborg 3 Ljungskile 1; Helsingborg 1 Orebro 1; Norrkoping 2 Malmo 2**

SWEDEN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elfsborg | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 10 |
| AIK | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Norrkoping | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Malmo | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Gothenburg | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Helsingborg | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Halmstad | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Orgryte | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Orebro | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| Trelleborg | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| Ljungskile | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| Oster | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| Degerfors | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Vasteras | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 |

## TURKEY

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Ankaragucu 1 Genclerbirligi 0; Antalyaspor 3 Denizlispor 0; Besiktas 5 Gaziantepspor 1 Bursaspor 3 Dardanelspor 1; Galatasaray 2 Altay 1; Zeytinburnu 1 Samsunspor 3; Kocaelispor 1 Istanbulspor 1; Trabzonspor 4 Fenerbahce 3; Vanspor 1 Sariyer 0**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Altay 0 Besiktas 4; Denizlispor 2 Ankaragucu 6; Sariyer 1 Trabzonspor 1; Fenerbahce 0 Kocaelispor 0; Gaziantepspor 3 Zeytinburnu 1; Genclerbirligi 0 Bursaspor 4; Istanbulspor 2 Galatasaray 3; Dardanelspor 2 Vanspor 1; Samsunspor 2 Antalyaspor 1**

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Ankaragucu 0 Samsunspor 0; Antalyaspor 2 Gaziantepspor 1; Besiktas 1 Galatasaray 1; Bursaspor 2 Denizlispor 2; Fenerbahce 3 Istanbulspor 0; Zeytinburnu 0 Altay 1; Kocaelispor 1 Sariyer 0; Trabzonspor 4 Dardanelspor 0; Vanspor 3 Genclerbirligi 0**

TURKEY

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Galatasaray | 30 | 21 | 7 | 2 | 76 | 27 | 70 |
| Besiktas | 30 | 19 | 8 | 3 | 75 | 21 | 65 |
| Fenerbahce | 30 | 19 | 7 | 4 | 63 | 20 | 64 |
| Trabzonspor | 30 | 19 | 5 | 6 | 62 | 31 | 62 |
| Bursaspor | 30 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 46 | 30 | 52 |
| Kocaelispor | 30 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 30 | 25 | 44 |
| Gaziantepspor | 30 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 34 | 39 | 44 |
| Istanbulspor | 30 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 44 | 37 | 43 |
| Samsunspor | 30 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 40 | 42 | 42 |
| Antalyaspor | 30 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 36 | 41 | 42 |
| Ankaragucu | 30 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 35 | 42 | 35 |
| Genclerbirligi | 30 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 29 | 42 | 35 |
| Altay | 30 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 27 | 54 | 33 |
| Sariyer | 30 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 37 | 46 | 31 |
| Dardanelspor | 30 | 8 | 6 | 16 | 29 | 55 | 30 |
| Vanspor | 30 | 6 | 7 | 17 | 23 | 48 | 25 |
| Denizlispor | 30 | 5 | 4 | 21 | 35 | 70 | 19 |
| Zeytinburnu | 30 | 2 | 5 | 23 | 24 | 75 | 11 |

## EURO TABLES

BELARUS

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lokomotiv-96 Vitebsk | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 9 |
| MPKTs Mozyr | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 7 |
| Dynamo-93 Minsk | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| Dynamo Minsk | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Belshina Bobruysk | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Dnepr Mogilyov | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Ataka Minsk | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Dynamo Brest | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| Kommunaknik Slonim | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Torpedo-Kadino | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Neman Grodno | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3

# World Service — Libertadores Cup 1st round table…Colon Sante Fe top Argentina…Kashima Antlers win Xerox Cup

**Fiorentina 0**
**Benfica 1** (Edgar Pacheco 22)
*Fiorentina 2-1 on agg*
**Fiorentina:** Toldo - Falcone, Serena, Piacentini, Amoruso, Padalino, Carnesciale, Schwarz, Batistuta, Rui Costa (Robbiati 70), Baiano (Luis Oliveira 80).
**Benfica:** Preud'homme - Marinho (Bruno Caires 77), Jorge Soares, Bermudez, Pedro Henriques, Tahar El Kalej (Iliev 77), Jamir, Valdo, Paulao (Panduru 77), Pacheco, Joao Vieira Pinto.

**Liverpool 3** (Fowler 25pen, 78, Collymore 63)
**Brann Bergen 0**
*Liverpool 4-1 on agg*
**Liverpool:** James - Wright, Matteo (Babb 46), Harkness, McAteer, Bjornebye, McManaman, Barnes, Redknapp, Fowler, Berger (Collymore 60).
**Brann:** Bahus - Morten Pedersen, Eftevaag (Gylfason 44), Ludvigsen, Paldan, Skjaelaaen (Erik Johannessen 86), Hollund, Hasund (Guntveit 66), Moen, T A Flo, Mjelde.

## UEFA CUP

### QUARTER-FINALS, 2ND LEGS (MARCH 18)

**Brondby 0**
**Tenerife 1** (Pinilla 21, Antonio Mata Olivera 120)
*Tenerife 2-1 after extra time*
**Brondby:** Krogh - Colding, Per Nielsen, Eggen, Bjerregaard (Ravn 60), Bjur, Vilfort, Daugaard, Sand, Bagger (Thogersen 64) Moller (Bo Hansen 96).
**Tenerife:** Ojeda - Llorente, Mata, Cruzado, Pinilla, Neuville (Kodro 86), Ballestinos, Motaung, Vivar Dorado (Pablo Paz 91), Jokanovic, Juanele Castanos (Alexis Suarez 119).

**Internazionale 2** (Ganz 12, 60)
**Anderlecht 1** (Yaw Preko 33)
*Inter 3-2 on agg*
**Inter:** Pagliuca - Bergomi, M Paganin, Fresi, Angloma, Zanetti, Ince, Sforza, Djorkaeff (Branca 88), Ganz (Winter 76), Zamorano.
**Anderlecht:** Herpoel - Doll, Johnson, Katana, Babayaro, Selymes (Iatchouck 77), Boffin (Stassin 18), Walem, Zetterberg, Versavel, Preko.

**Monaco 3** (Sylvain Legwinski 41, Ali Benarbia 52, 67)
**Newcastle Utd 0**
*Monaco 4-0 on agg*
**Monaco:** Barthez - Blondeau, Djetou, Dumas, Petit, Collins, Benarbia (Scifo 75), Anderson, Legwinsky, Grimandi (Martin 70), Henry (Ikpeba Nosa 66).
**Newcastle:** Hislop - Barton (Clark 77), Batty, Peacock (Beresford 79), Lee, Beardsley (Gillespie 53), Asprilla, Albert, Ginola, Watson, Elliott.

**Valencia 1** (Poyatos 45)
**Schalke 1** (Mulder 18)
*Schalke 3-1 on agg*
**Valencia:** Zubizarreta - Otero, Poyatos, Fernando Gomez (Hurtado 56), Karpin, Eskurza (Vlaovic 56), Ferreira, Romero, Galvez, Leandro, Caceres (Campos 56).
**Schalke:** Lehmann - Latal (Dooley 70), Eigenrauch, Muller, Mulder (Wagner 87), Thon, Max, Buskens, Nemec, Kurz, De Kock.

# SOUTH AMERICA

## LIBERTADORES CUP

### 1ST ROUND

### GROUP 1

*April 6 - Asuncion (Parag)*
**Guarani** (Par) **3** (Soto 18, Ovelar 20, 24)
**Bolivar** (Bol) **1** (Cueto 6)
**HT:** 3-1. **Ref:** C. Simon (Braz).
**Guarani:** D. Gomez, T. Barrios, T. Caballero, L. Romero, C. Gonzalez (R. Lugo 45), L. Ruiz Diaz, J. Franco, C. Ojeda, D. Soto (L. Torales 67), H. Ovelar, E. Palacios.
**Bolivar:** T. N'Kono, R. Salguero (R. Montagno 60), M. Sandy, M. Rimba, E. Jiguchi, I. Castillo, V. Soria, C. Borja (W. Sanchez 65), L. Cristaldo, R. Cueto (M. Mercado 60), A. Vidal Gonzalez.

*April 11 - Asuncion (Parag)*
**Cerro Porteno** (Par) **2** (J. Mesa 24, O. Cohener 32)
**Bolivar** (Bol) **0 HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 84.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bolivar (Bol)** | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 10 |
| **Oriente Petrolero (Bol)** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 8 |
| **Guarani (Par)** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| **Cerro Porteno (Par)** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 7 |

*Top 3 qualify for second round*

### GROUP 2

*April 4 - Buenos Aires (Arg)*
**Velez Sarsfield** (Arg) **1** (Husain 23)
**Emelec** (Ecu) **1** (Poroso 33)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** E. Gamboa (Chile).
**Velez Sarsfield:** Chilavert, Zandona, Banegas, Mendez, Husain (Morigi), Campagnucci, M. Gomez, Santacruz (Herrera 75), Pandolfi, Asad, Cordone.
**Emelec:** Cevallos, Coronel, Tenorio, Poroso, Carabali, Verdduga, A. Ferndanez, Akselman (Ron 86), smdith, Hidalgo, C. Juarez.

*April 8 - Avellaneda (Arg)*
**Racing Club** (Arg) **2** (Delgado 11, Vilallonga 30)
**Emelec** (Ecu) **0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** L. Pena (Chil). **Att:** 8,000.
**Racing:** 1 Gonzalez, Navas, Galvan, Ubeda, MacAllister (Zanetti 68), Michelini, Marini, De Vicente (Centeno 19), Capria, Delgado, Vilallonga.
**Emelec:** Cevallos, Coronel, Porozo, Tenorio, Carabeli, Verduga, Smith, Hidalgo (I. Ron 45, Mendoza 72), Akselman, Juarez, A. Fernandez.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Velez Sarsfield** | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 13 |
| **Nacional** | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| **Racing** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| **Emelec** | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 4 |

*Top 3 qualify for second round*

### GROUP 3

*March 27 - Puerto Ordaz (Venez)*
**Minerven** (Vnz) **1** (Tortolero pen 44)
**Colo Colo** (Chi) **2** (Tapia 10, Leira 37)
**HT:** 1-2. **Ref:** B. Moreno (Ecuad).
**Minerven:** J. Gomez, R. Yory (L. Camacaro), R. Tortolero, A. Lezama, D. McIntosh, R. Rodallegas, R. Lozano, S. Anarelli (J Carneiro)l, L. Vera, L. Tizamo, A. Chirinos.
**Colo Colo:** J. Yates, F. Fernandez, P. Reyes, Paulao, M. Latin, M. Villaseca, J. Alegria, H. Tapia, J. Sierra (R. Zambrano), L. Tudor, M. Neira.

*March 25 - Puerto Ordaz (Venez)*
**Mineros Guayana** (Vnz) **1** (Paez 26)
**Colo Colo** (Chi) **4** (F. Fernandez 7, Zambrano 43, Tapia 50, 84)
**HT:** 1-2. **Ref:** J. Vera (Ecu).
**Mineros:** D. Nicolac, W. Gonzalez, L. Correa, R. Torres, P. Hernandez, L. Filosa, W. Colina (J. Martinez), A. Paez, Josimar, W. Moreno, A. Jackson.
**Colo Colo:** M. Ramikrez, F. Fernandez, J. Gonzalez (Paulo Cesar), M. Villasseca, M. Lattin, M. Salas, J. Alegria, J. Sierra (M. Espina), F. Lobos (M. Barticciotto), R. Zambrano, H. Tapia.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Colo Colo (Chi)** | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| **Univ. Catolica (Chi)** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 6 | 8 |
| **Minerven (Vnz)** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| **Mineros (Vnz)** | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 2 |

*Top 3 qualify for second round*

### GROUP 4

*April 11 - Belo Horizonte (Braz)*
**Cruzeiro** (Bra) **2** (Alex 3, Reinaldo 22)
**Sporting Cristal** (Pe) **1** (Bomet 81)
**HT:** 2-0.

*April 15 - Porto Alegre (Braz)*
**Gremio** (Bra) **2** (Paulo Nines 9, Ddauri 37)
**Sporting Cristal** (Per) **0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 10,350. **Ref:** D. Gimenez (Arg)
**Gremio:** Danrlei, Arce, Luciano, Mauro Galvao, Andre Sdilva, Dinho, Luiz Carlos Goiano, Emerson, Dauri, Paulo Nunes (sent off 58), Ze Alcino.
**Sporting Cristal:** Balerio, J. Soto, Asteggiano, Rabosio, Garay, Marengo (sent off 58), Serrano, Carmena (Boned), Solano, Czornomez (Hidalgo), Julinho (Mendoza).

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Gremio** | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 12 |
| **Cruzeiro** | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| **S. Cristal** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| **Alianza Lima** | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 |

*Top 3 qualify for second round*

### GROUP 5

*April 8 - Cali (Colombia)*
**Deportivo Cali** (Col) **0**
**Nacional** (Uru) **1** (Recoba 49)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** O. Godoy (Braz). **Att:** 28,000.
**Dep Cali:** M. Calero, A. Fernandez, A. Mosquera, M. Valencia, J. Perez, M. Zapata, V. Bonilla, E. Mafla, A. Estrada (D. Tilger 65), W. Escobar (O. Quagliatta 65), H. Ricard *(sent off 73)*.
**Nacional:** C. Nicola (sent off 18), T. Gomez *(sent off 73)*, G. Badell, L. Jara, C. Aquilar, F. Coelho, M. Barilko. N. Abeijon, A. Recoba, J. Ravera (A. Escanes 19), J. Gonzalez (F. Kanapkis 65).

*April 11 - Bogota (Col)*
**Millonarios** (Col) **2** (Daza 36, Marcio Cruz 85)
**Nacional** (Uru) **0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** S. Marinho (Bra).
**Millonarios:** L. Sanchez, F. Rivas, (R. Ramirez 65), O. Lopez, O. Cortes, J. Martinez, H. Lozano, B. Mosquera, Y. Mosquera, J. Ramirez, R. Perez, A. Daza (Marcio Cruz 46).
**Nacional:** A. Escames *(sent off 75)*, L. Jara, G. Badell, F. Kanpakis *(sent off 89)*, D. Pereira, J. Barilko, F. Coelho (N. Abeijon 60), D. Tito (G. Munua), W. Rodriguez (A. Recoba), M. Sanabria, J. Gonzalez *(sent off 85)*.

*April 15 - Montevideo (Urug)*
**Nacional** (Uru) **1** (Riavera 57)
**Deportivo Cali** (Col) **1** (Mafla pen 37)
**Ht:** 1-1. **Ref:** R. Ruscio (Arg). **Att:** 35,000
**Nacional:** C. Nicola, t. Gomez, C. Aguilar (sent off 92), G. Badell (sent off 87), L. Jara (R. Lemos), F. Coelho, N. Abaijon, M. Barilko, A. Recoba, J. Ravera (W. Rodriguez), c. Addipe.
**Dep Cali:** M. Calero, A. Fernandez, a. Mosquera, M. Valencia, J. Perez, A. Estrada, V. Bonilla, M. Zapata, E. Mafla (E. Alvear), W. Escobar, D. Tilger (O. Pareja).

*April 19 - Montevideo (Urug)*
**Penarol** (Uru) **4**
**Deportivo Cali** (Col) **3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Penarol (Uru)** | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 12 |
| **Millonarios (Col)** | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 10 |
| **Nacional (Uru)** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| **Dep. Cali (Col)** | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 5 |

### 2ND ROUND - 1ST LEG

*April 23 - Avellaneda (Arg)*
**Racing Club** (Arg) **3** (Ubeda 1, 78, Cordoba 36)
**River Plate** (Arg) **3** (Gallardo 12, Francescoli pen 38, Monserrat 44)
**HT:** 2-3. **Ref:** H. Elizondo (Arg).
**Racing:** I. Gonzalez, M. Navas, C. Galvan, C. Ubeda, C. MacAllister, C. Netto, P. Michelini (C. Merini 77), G. Cordoba, R. Capria, M. Delgado, M. Villalonga (E. Fuertes 87)
**River Plate:** R. Bonano, H. Diaz, c. Ayala, E. Berizzo, J. Sorin, R. Monserrat (M Escudero 65), L. Astrada, S. Berti (S. Solari 69), M. Gallardo (H. Maistella), E. Francescoli, J. Cruz.

*April 23 - Lima (Peru)*
**Sporting Cristal** (Peru) **0**
**Velez Sarsfield** (Arg) **0**
**Ref:** J. Toro (Col). **Att:** 18,000.
**Sporting Cristal:** Balerio, Garay, Asteggiano, Rebosio, J. Soto, Torres (Magallanes 45), Serrano, Camora (Amoako 58), Hidalgo, Julinho, Czornomaz (Mendoza 76)
**Velez Sarsfield:** Chilavert, Zandona, Sotomayor, Pellagrino, Cardozo, Morigi (S. Mendez 86), M. Gomez (Herrera), Husain, Bassedas, Posse (Ruiz), Campa.

*April 23 - Bogota (Col)*
**Millonarios** (Col) **2** (Perez pen 57, B. Mosquera 86)
**Penarol** (Uru) **0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** R. Zambrano (Ecuad).
**Millonarios:** L. Sanchez, F. Rivas, O. Lopez, J. Martinez, H. Lozano, B. Mosquera, Y. Mosquera, J. Ramirez, C. Santamaria (sent off 58), M. Cruz (R. Ramirez 89), R. Perez.
**Penarol:** F. Alvez, I. Borjas, J. Goncalvez, J. de los Santos, S. Garcia, N. Rotundo (M. Zalayeta 65), G. de los Santos, P. Quinonez, A. Pacheco (M. Romero 60), P. Bangoachea, L. Romerro (J.C. De Lima 55).

*April 23 - Puerto Ordaz (Venez)*
**Minerven** (Vnz) **1** (Chirinos 63)
**Bolivar** (Bol) **1** (Castillo 89)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 2,500.
**Minerven:** J. Gomez, D. McIntosh (R. Yori 80), E Tortlero, C. Mieresa, S. Anarelli, R. Rodallegas, R. Lozano, L. Vera, E. Camacho (L. Tizamo 63), A. Chirinos, J. Carneiro.
**Bolivar:** T.N. 'Kono, E. Jiguchi, M. Sandy, M. Rimba, I. Castillo, C. Borja (R. Cueto 67), V. Soria, H. Cristaldo, J. Ruiz, R. Castillo, A. Vidal Gonzalez.

*April 23 - Asuncion (Parag)*
**Guarani** (Par) **2** (Ovelar 4, 82)
**Gremio** (Bra) **1** (Andre 61)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** A. Sanchez.
**Guarani:** D. Gomez, T. Barrios, L. Romero, T. Caballero, R. Delgado, L. Ruiz Diaz, J. Franco, C. Ojeda, H. Ovelar, D. Soto, E. Palacios.
**Gremio:** Danrlei, F. Arce, C. Rivarola (sent off 82), Mauro Galvao, Andre Silva, Zinho, Carlos Goiano, Carlos Miguel, Roger, Mauricio, Alcino.

## INTER-AMERICAN CUP

*(between CONMEBOL and CONCACAF club champions (1995) Libertadores Cup finalists Nacional replaced winners Gremio (Brazil) who did not want to play*

*April 3 - San Jose (Costa Rica)*
**Deportivo Sapprisa** (Costa Rica) **2** (Mahia 42, Wanchope 89)
**Nacional** (Col) **3** (Comas 28, Gomez 38, Gaviria 60)
**HT:** 1-2. **Ref:** G. Alcala (Mex). **Att:** 20,000.
**Saprissa:** E. Lonnis, V. Quesada, R. Gonzalez, M. Wright, J. Drummond, D. Sequeira, M. Herrera (J. Wanchope), A. Sequeira, J. Torres, G. Drummond, A. Mahia.
**Nacional:** R. Higuita, S. Ospina, L. Perrea, F. Mosquera, H. Gaviria, A. Garcia, A. Comas, J. Gomez, I. Corddoba, N. Morantes, D. Rueda.

# ARGENTINA

### WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 6

**Estudiantes La Plata 0**
**Lanus 0**

**Union Santa Fe 2** (Cabrol pen 29, Carrario 62)
**Gimnasia Y Esgrima La Plata 1** (Sava 77)

**Rosario Central 0**
**Huracan Corrientes 0**

**Platense 1** (Favre 29)
**River Plate 2** (Sorin 11, Villalba 84)

**Boca Juniors 1** (S. Martinez 46)
**Ferro Carril Oeste 1** (R. Flores 81)

**Banfield 0**
**Independiente 2** (Calderon 45, 56)

**Huracan 3** (Conti 3, Peralta 39, C. Garcia 42)
**Velez Sarsfield 1** (Cordone 90)

**Racing Club 1** (Capria 54) Colon Santa Fe (Aquino 13)
**Gimnasia Y Esgrima Jujuy 2** (Guerrero 2, Rosas 77)
San Lorenzo 1 (Biaggio 27)

**Deportivo Espanol 0**
**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Gimenez 80)

### WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 13

**Lanus 2** (Coyette 14 pen, 783, A. Lopez 89)
**Colon Santa Fe 4** (Saralegui 27, 49, Gorostidi 76, Aquino 90)

**Gimnasia Y Esgrima La Plata 3** (Sosa 17, Sanguinetti 43, Guill. Barros Schelotto)
**Banfield 1** (Pelletti 55)

**Union Santa Fe 1** (Marzo 37)
**Racing Club 1** (Delgado 19)

**Huracan Corrientes 1** (Bianchi 42)
**Gimnasia Y Esgrima Jujuy 1** (Morales Santos 6)

**Independiente 2** (Usuriaga 59, Calderon 90)
**Huracan 0**

**San Lorenzo 0**
**Estudiantes La Plata 1** (Romeo 56)

**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Dalla Libera 30)
**Boca Juniors 1** (Latorre 44)

**Ferro Carril Oeste 0**
**Platense 1** (Moner 60)

### WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 20

**Estudiantes De La Plata 2** (Palermo 11, Romeo 64)
**Huracan (Corientes) 2** (Lujembio, Sosa 90)

**Colon Santa Fe 1** (Cuberas 70)
**San Lorenzo 0**

**Huracan 1** (Lettieri 38)
**Gimnasia Y Esgrima De La Plata 1** (San Esteban 63)

**Platense 1** (Erbin 89)
**Newell's Old Boys 2** (Dalla Libvera 29, Saldana 39)

**Deportivo Espanol 1** (M. Parodi 16)
**Independiente 2** (Burruchaga pen 54)

**Boca Juniors 1** (Riquelme 3)
**Velez Sarsfield 2** (Chilavert pen 45, Morigi 81)

**Rosario Central 1** (Boasso 21)
**Ferro Carril Oeste 3** (Reggi 45, Cordon 73, Martens 78)

**Racing Club 1** (Capria 46)
**Lanus 2** (A. Lopez 41, Coyette 89)

**Gimnasia Y Esgrima De Jujuy 1** (Morales Santos 34)
**River Plate 1** (Francescoli 42)

**Banfield 1** (Gliaria 72)
**Union Santa Fe 2** (Garate 14, Marzo 79)

### ARGENTINA - CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Col Santa Fe** | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 9 | 21 |
| **Newell's Old Boys** | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 20 |
| **River Plate** | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 6 | 18 |
| **Union Santa Fe** | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| **Gim Y Esgrima LP** | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 14 |
| **San Lorenzo** | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 12 | 13 |
| **Velez Sarsfield** | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 13 |
| **FC Oeste** | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| **Independiente** | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 15 | 12 |
| **Platense** | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| **Lanus** | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 11 |
| **Racing Club** | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 11 |
| **Boca Juniors** | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 15 | 10 |
| **Rosario Central** | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| **Huracan (Corrientes)** | 9 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 8 |
| **Gim Y Esgrima Jujuy** | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 15 | 6 |
| **Estudiantes LP** | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 8 |
| **Dep. Espanol** | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 7 |
| **Huracan** | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 6 |
| **Banfield** | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 5 |

Bottom relegation averages (ave pts last 3 seasons): **Union** 0.888; **Huracan** 0.884; **Espanol** 0.864 **Huracan (Corrientes)** 0.821; **Banfield** 0.737. Two relegated.



# SOUTH AMERICAN TABLES

### BRAZIL

### SAO PAULO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### GROUP 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Palmeiras** | 17 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 42 | 19 | 36 |
| **Portuguesa** | 17 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 37 | 24 | 32 |
| **Santos** | 17 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 31 | 21 | 30 |
| **Guarani** | 17 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 32 | 38 | 22 |
| **Juventus** | 17 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 30 | 38 | 15 |
| **San Jose** | 16 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 33 | 13 |
| **Botafogo** | 17 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 22 | 11 |
| **America** | 17 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 14 | 42 | 10 |

### GROUP 2

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Corinthians** | 16 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 44 | 20 | 34 |
| **Sao Paulo** | 17 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 27 | 17 | 27 |
| **Uniao Sao Joao** | 17 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 22 | 20 | 23 |
| **Internacional Limeira** | 17 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 28 | 25 | 22 |
| **Rio Branco** | 17 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 21 | 24 | 21 |
| **Mogi Mirim** | 17 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 22 | 26 | 21 |
| **Aracatuba** | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 24 | 20 |
| **Portuguesa Santista** | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 23 | 30 | 20 |

*Top two of each group qualify for final round.*

### RIO CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND STAGE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Botafogo** | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| **Fluminense** | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| **Vasco da Gama** | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 10 |
| **Americano** | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| **Bangu** | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| **Flamengo** | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| **Madureira** | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| **Volta Redonda** | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 0 |

*Winners of 2nd and 3rd stage play final round with first stage winner Botafogo.*

### URUGUAY

*First Division Opening Championship*
After 7 of 11 games:
1) River Plate 16 pts; 2) Nacional 15; 3) Penarol 14; 4) Defensor Sporting 13; 5) Rampla Juniors & Danubio 10; 7) Liverpool 9; 8) Wanderers 8;
9) Huracan Buceo 6; 10) Cerro, Racing Club 5;
12) Rentistas 4.

### ECUADOR

*First Division Opening Championship*
**Group A:** 1) Aucas 12 pts; 2) Barcelona 11;
3) Tecnico Universitario 9; 4) Nacional, Cuenca 8;
6) Calvi 1.
**Group B:** 1) Liga Deportiva de Quito 12; 2) Olmedo 11;
3) Emelec, Espoli 6; 5) Deportivo Quito 5;
6) Quevedo 3.

### COLOMBIA

*First Division Closing Championship*
1) America, Union Magdalena 27 pts; 3) Tolima 23; 4) Nacional, Deportivi Cali, Cortulua, Bucaramanga 22; 8) Independiente Medellin 19; 9) Atletico Junior, Caldas, Quindio 14; 12) Envigado 11; 13) Pereira 9; 14) Millonarios 8; 15) Independiente Santa Fe 7;
16) Cucuta 6.
Overall: 1) America 98 pts; 2) Nacional 81; 3) De. Cali 79.50; 4) Tolima 69; 5) Union Magdalena 67; 6) Independiente Medellin 66; 7) Bucaramanga 64; 8) At. Junior 62.25; 9) Cortulua 59; 10) Caldas 57; 11) Envigado, Independiente Santa Fe 53; 13) Quindio 42; 14) Pereira 37; 15) Millonarios 36; 16) Cucuta 28.
(Totals include bonus points from opening championship.)

### CHILE

*First Division Opening Championship*
1) Univ. Catolica 24pts; 2) Colo Colo 24; 3) Univ. de Chile 20; 4) Temuco 19; 5) Cobreloa 18; 6) Wanderers 17; 7) La Serena 14; 8) Concepcion 14;
9) Coquimbo 13; 10) Huachipato 10; 11) Palestino 10; 12) Osorno 9; 13) Audax Italiano 9; 14) Union Espanola 7; 15) Puerto Montt 6; 16) Antofagasto 4.

### PARAGUAY

*First Division Opening Championship*
After 8 games:
1) Olimpia 22 pts; 2) Sol de America 18; 3) Libertad 16;
4) Presidente Hayes, San Lorenzo 15; 6) Cerro Poerteno 14; 7) Tembetary 13; 8) Guarani 10;
9) Nacional, Sport Colombia 9; 11) Colegiales 8;
12) Sportivo Luqueno 7; 13) Cerro Cora 6.

### PERU

*Decentralised Opening Tournament*
1) Sporting Cristal 18pts; 2) Alianza Lima 17; 3) Universitario 14; 4) Cienciano 14; 5) Municipal 13; 6) Alianza Atletico 12; 7) Atletico Torino 10; 8) Dep. Pesquero 9; 9) Alcides Vigo 9; 10) Jose Galvaz 9; 11) Sport Boys 8; 12) FBC Melgar 8; 13) La Loretana 6; 14 Union Minas 3.

### BOLIVIA

*Professional Championship* (After 8 games)
**Group A:** 1) The Strongest 19 pts; 2) Bolivar 12; 3) Chaco Petrolero 10; 4) Independiente Petrolero, San Jose 9; 6) Municipal 6.
**Group B:** 1) Blooming 16; 2) Jorge Wilsterman 15; 3) Guabira 13; 4) Santa Cruz, Oriente Petrolero 8; 6) Destroyers 5.

### VENEZUELA

*First Division Closing Championship*
**Leaders:** 1) Union tachira 31 pts; 2) Caracas FC 30.

# ASIA

## JAPAN

### XEROX SUPER CUP (Apr 5)

**Kashima Antlers 3** (Mazinho 26, Yanagisawa 72, 79)
**Verdy Kawasaki 2** (Hashiratani 8, Magrao 68)
Att: 28,920

### J. LEAGUE - 1ST STAGE

### SATURDAY, APRIL 12

**Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Cerezo Osaka 3; Yokohama Flugels 3 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Kashima Antlers 5 Vissel Kobe 2; Gamba Osaka 4 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1; Jubilo Iwata 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Urawa Reds 2 Yokohama Marinos 3; Verdy Kawasaki 0 Jef United Ichihara 2; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 1**

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

**Yokohama Marinos 0 Gamba Osaka 4; Cerezo Osaka 0 Yokohama Flugels 2; Jef United Ichihara 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 4; Shimizu S-Pulse 0 Urawa Reds 1** (Nishino 64); **Bellmare Hiratsuka 0 Verdy Kawasaki 2; Vissel Kobe 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Kashiwa Reysol 3; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Jubilo Iwata 1**

### SATURDAY, APRIL 19

**Yokohama Flugels 3 Vissel Kobe 1; Urawa Reds 0 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Jubilo Iwata 1 Cerezo Osaka 2; Gamba Osaka 4 Shimizu S-Pulse 1; Nagoya Gampus Eight 0 Kashima Antlers 2; Kyoto Purple Sanga 0 Bellmare Hiratsuka 2; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Verdy Kawasaki 2 Yokohama Marinos 2** *(Marinos win 4-3 on pens)*

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

**Vissel Kobe 1 Jubilo Iwata 2; Kashima Antlers 1 Yokohama Flugels 0; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Urawa Reds 3; Yokohama Marinos 3 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Gamba Osaka 0; Bellmare Hiratsuka 1 Jef United Ichihara 0; Cerezo Osaka 2 Kashiwa Reysol 2** *(Cerezo win 5-4 on pens)*.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26

**Ubilo Iwata 1 Kashima Antlers 2; Kashiwa Reysol 3 Vissel Kobe 1; Jef United Ichihara 1 Yokohama Marinos 2; Gamba Osaka 0 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Urawa Reds 1 Cerezo Osaka 2; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 3; Yokohama Flugels 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Verdy Kawasaki 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2.**

### JAPAN

| | P | W3 | W2 | W1 | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Kashima Antlers** | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 12 |
| **Yokohama Flugels** | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 12 |
| **Cerezo Osaka** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| **Yokohama Marinos** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| **Gamba Osaka** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 9 |
| **Kashiwa Reysol** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| **Sanfrecce** | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| **Jubilo Iwata** | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| **Shimizu S-Pulse** | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| **Urawa Reds** | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| **Bellmare Hiratsuka** | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| **Verdy Kawasaki** | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| **JEF United Ichihara** | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| **Kyoto Purple Sanga** | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 3 |
| **Avispa Fukuoka** | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 |
| **Vissel Kobe** | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 2 |
| **Grampus Eight** | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 0 |

W3=win in 90 mins (3pts), W2=win in extra time (2pts), W1=win on penalties (1pt).


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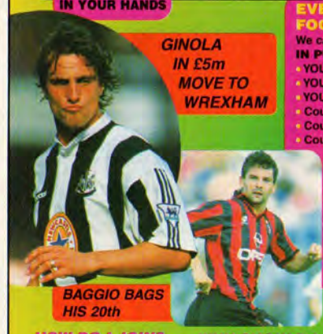


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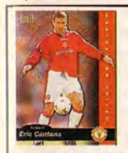

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## Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

# Schmeichel was wrong ... and so was Elleray

1968...Manchester United lift the European Cup for the first and only time

1997...Missed chances prevent the current team from even reaching the Final

COMPARISONS, as we know, are odious. Certainly Peter Schmeichel, Manchester United's rumbustious Danish goalkeeper, was out of order when he said, before a European Cup tie in Dortmund in which he couldn't even play, that the present United team would have beaten the 1968 European Cup winners 10-0.

He quickly tried to cover his tracks by paying tribute to a side which achieved something no United team has managed since. Very much including the Schmeichel side which, casting away a multitude of chances, went down and out in this season's semi-finals to a weakened Borussia Dortmund. (Yes, I know Roy Keane wasn't able to play at Old Trafford, but Dortmund missed half a team in the home leg, and lacked Matthias Sammer and Paulo Sousa at Old Trafford.)

There is no doubt that, over the postwar years, football has become faster and faster, though whether it has become better is another thing again. I do not think there is a single player in the present United team who can bear comparison with George Best, perhaps the finest footballer these islands have produced since the war. And if United had possessed such an opportunist as Denis Law against Borussia, is it conceivable that every one of those chances would have been thrown away? The dynamic two-footed shooting of Bobby Charlton might have been some use to them, too.

What I will say, apropos the present argument, is that major English teams of past decades surely would not have had the trouble our overpaid sides have had with relatively impoverished and obscure opposition.

The first FA Cup semi-final between Middlesbrough and Chesterfield lends ample testimony to that. Only the utterly bizarre refereeing of our supposedly best referee, David Elleray – in the country of the blind, and all the rest of it – robbed little Chesterfield of a sensational victory against the colossally expensive, immensely well-paid Middlesbrough team. Talk about the parts being greater than the whole.

Elleray's attempts to explain why he had not allowed that Chesterfield goal when the ball so clearly came down from the bar over the line were contradictory and pathetic. He told us that he had blown for a foul – what foul? – AFTER the ball had hit the bar. But once the ball had come down over the line, sports fans, it was DEAD! He also said he had seen as many as eight offences prior to the shot which hit the bar. What were they?

> **'For donkey's years, giantkilling has been the romantic essence of the FA Cup; but Elleray killed romance stone dead'**

Having strongly criticised Elleray's decisions during their transmissions, through their undoubted experts, the BBC then got themselves an interview with Elleray; and bottled it. Instead of asking the errant referee why he had disallowed the goal – or given a penalty against Chesterfield when the foul plainly took place outside the box – they cringingly asked him merely what happened when he thought he had made a mistake, to provoke a pompous waffle.

My point is – and I speak as one who fought at Jimmy Hill's right hand all those years ago against the iniquitous maximum wage – that our grotesquely overpaid stars have feet if not boots of clay. Lightning doesn't strike twice. Chesterfield, having given their glorious all, were bound to go down in the replay. But how they'd cut almost everyone on the other team but the dazzling little Juninho down to size!

David Elleray, by an irony, is a housemaster at Harrow; and Harrow School may properly be seen as the true begetter of the FA Cup. It was the brainchild of the Old Harrovian and FA secretary Charles Alcock, who based it on the Cockhouse Cup, a knockout competition for Harrow rules football, which he had played when a pupil. For donkey's years past, giantkilling has been the romantic essence of that historic competition; but Elleray, the Harrow housemaster, killed romance stone dead.

If you think I am subverting my own argument, let me beg to defend it. Yes, Walsall knocked out mighty, but depleted, Arsenal in a memorable FA Cup tie in 1933, and there have been other such upsets all through the years. But not at the level of a semi-final, on a neutral pitch, rather than on the Davidian team's own ground. And remember that Stockport County of the so-called Second Division this season eliminated Blackburn Rovers, and even had the temerity to beat Middlesbrough away in the second leg of the League Cup semi-final.

# Worth a place in the pantheon

WHEN I was a schoolboy, Denis Compton, who died last month, was one of my heroes. I was lucky enough, as a 10-year-old in 1942, to see him play on the left wing for England against Scotland in January, and at Lord's, not far from Wembley, a few months later, for Middlesex and Essex against Kent and Surrey: England beat Scotland 3-0, and at Lord's I still recall Denis making a sensational running catch on the boundary from Godfrey Evans. He was always a superb entertainer.

Reams of prose have appeared to extol his cricketing feats; but as a footballer, too, he was exceptional. Who knows how much more he might have done had the war not taken six 'official' years out of his career? The curious consequence was that while he was a brilliant member of a dazzling England forward line during the war, with Matthews, Carter, Lawton and Hagan, though he played in a Victory International in Glasgow in 1946, he never won a full cap and thus could not join the pantheon of those, often less gifted than he, who were capped at both soccer and cricket.

As an outside-left, he had balance, flair, supreme ball control and a dynamic left foot. His older brother, Leslie, a fine footballer but by no means in the same class as Denis, won a couple of full caps in 1950, as a 38-year-old centre-half, having played a number of internationals during the war, both at full-back and centre-forward!

Leslie also competently kept wicket for Middlesex while Denis scored all those exciting runs.

In the last moments of a dramatic FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea at Tottenham, Arsenal, who were 2-1 down, forced a corner. Leslie came trundling upfield. Desperately, the Gunners' skipper, Joe Mercer, waved him back. Leslie ignored him. Over came the corner; Leslie headed the equaliser. And Arsenal went on to win the Cup.

Legendary left foot...Denis Compton strikes for Arsenal

# Being nice is a football failing

NICE GUYS, opined Leo Durocher, an American baseball manager, finish last. It is more or less what people have been saying about the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans. Not perhaps without reason.

Anyone who doubted what a nice if over-tolerant guy he was surely must have doubted no more after he had publicly begged Glenn Hoddle to keep his fallible goalkeeper, David James, in the England squad against Georgia at Wembley. This after two horrific blunders by James had condemned Liverpool to humiliating defeat in Paris in the first leg of the Cup-winners Cup semi-final, followed by another awful high-ball blunder which gave away a goal against Manchester United at Anfield, when Liverpool's remaining chance of the Championship evaporated.

Brought to his knees...James is humbled by PSG

Mind you, given Hoddle's record of picking or ignoring keepers when David Seaman is injured, it's surprising he didn't indeed put James in his squad. Not to use Nigel Martyn against Italy or Mexico was a crime against logic; and it cost a goal against the Italians.

David James cannot, however, be made the scapegoat for those embarrassing defeats by PSG and Manchester United. The truth is that Liverpool, in both games, proved invertebrate; something you would never have suspected of a team which, in a glorious past, has never laid down and died. In Paris, Evans himself admitted that he just didn't know what had gone wrong.

He is an honourable, humane, decent, immensely likeable man, and we have to conclude that these just are not the qualities to command success in the football of our era – if they ever were – though Liverpool did far better when they beat Paris Saint-Germain at Anfield, where pride returned.

"Kind, but with a strong hand," Vittorio Pozzo, the pre-war inspiration of the Italian World Cup-winning teams, used to say of his management style. "If I let them make mistakes, I lose my authority."

A journalistic colleague emphasised to me an incident when Steve McManaman, displeased by something that had gone wrong in a game, had rushed to the bench and shouted at Evans. "He wouldn't have done that with Shankly."

You bet he wouldn't. Bill Shankly, the architect of Liverpool's success, was a tough little Scot who, as one of his defenders once told me, "can treat you like dirt". It was said that when a player was injured, Shanks as like as not would refuse to talk to him. Not the most humane of attitudes, but that strong hand seems essential to success in major football.

Arsenal's Herbert Chapman, Pozzo's friend and contemporary, was essentially a benevolent dictator. "He told you how to dress," Arsenal's skipper and left-back, Eddie Hapgood, once told me. "He told you how to do your hair." As Hapgood's full-back partner George Male once observed that the modern player might say, "Well, I'm not staying here for that."

Both Pozzo and Chapman exploited the tenor of their times. But to be nice, as nice as Roy Evans, can, alas, be a human virtue and a footballing failing.

# Munich

**Gavin Hamilton on the venue for the 1997 UEFA Champions League Final**

Munich's Olympiapark, dominated by the Olympiastadion

Munich will join a select band of footballing capitals on May 28 when the city's Olympic Stadium is the venue for the 1997 Champions League Final.

London, Paris, Vienna, Brussels, Madrid and Rome are the only other cities to have hosted three or more finals of the world's premier club competition. Prestigious company, but the capital of Bavaria is more than entitled to feel at home alongside them.

The Olympic Stadium or the Olympiastadion to give it its proper name, is one of the most familiar sights in world sport, having hosted, in addition to two European Cup Finals (1980 and 1993), the 1974 World Cup Final and the 1972 Olympic Games.

For many English football fans, though, Munich will be forever associated with the 1958 air disaster, when the plane carrying Manchester United back from a European Cup semi-final in Belgrade stopped to refuel at Munich Riem airport. The aircraft crashed after a third take-off attempt failed. Eight players, three club officials and eight journalists perished in the snow.

It took more than a decade for United to recover from the tragedy and Munich left an indeliable mark on a nation's conscience for more than a generation.

Ironically, the Olympiastadion was built on the site of another airfield, in Oberwiesenfeld in the northwest of the city, from where British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain embarked on his infamous "I have in my hand a piece of paper" flight of appeasement in 1938.

The Olympiastadion was opened three months before the 1972 Games and formed the centrepiece of the Olympiapark, which also featured an Olympic village, swimming pool and 275metre high observation tower. The total cost of the stadium came to 137 million deutschmarks (£50million), of which nearly half went on the cost of the Bedouin tent-style roof. It may have been expensive, but the effect was, and still is, staggering.

The Olympiastadion soon replaced the 35,000-capacity Stadion an der Grunwalder Strasse, which had previously been the home of Bayern Munich and Munich 1860, as the city's premier footballing centre.

The exploits of Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Muller, Sepp Maier and Co with Bayern in the 1970s, when the they won the Champions Cup three years in a row, helped to make Bayern (the German for Bavarian) the country's most popular club. However, it was 1860, actually founded in 1899, a year before Bayern, who were originally the more successful side.

***'Few locals will adopt Dortmund's cause on May 28. Feelings have always run high in Bavaria'***

Founder members of the Bundesliga in 1963 (unlike Bayern), 1860 won the title in 1966, three points ahead of Bayern. Since 1972, though, and the move to the Olympiastadion, 1860 have been eclipsed by their more glamourous neighbours. Although they moved with Bayern to the new stadium, 1860 have always been happier at Grunwalder Strasse, where they still have their club headquarters and played home games during a dark period in the regional Bavarian league. The last three seasons have been spent back in the Bundesliga and, much to 1860 fans' disgust, back at the Olympiastadion.

Bayern won the UEFA Cup last season to become just one of a handful of clubs (Juventus, Ajax, Barcelona) who have won all three European club cups. It was fitting, after the city's contribution to the game, that a Munich side should join such a prestigious elite. Nottingham Forest, Champions Cup winners in 1980 over Malmo in Munich, would testify to that.

Borussia Dortmund, the current German champions, from the Ruhr, are no strangers to the Olympiastadion. But nor are they likely to find many locals in the crowd adopting their cause when they play Juventus on May 28. Feelings always have run high in Bavaria.

Past glories...Munich 1860's Grunwalder stadium

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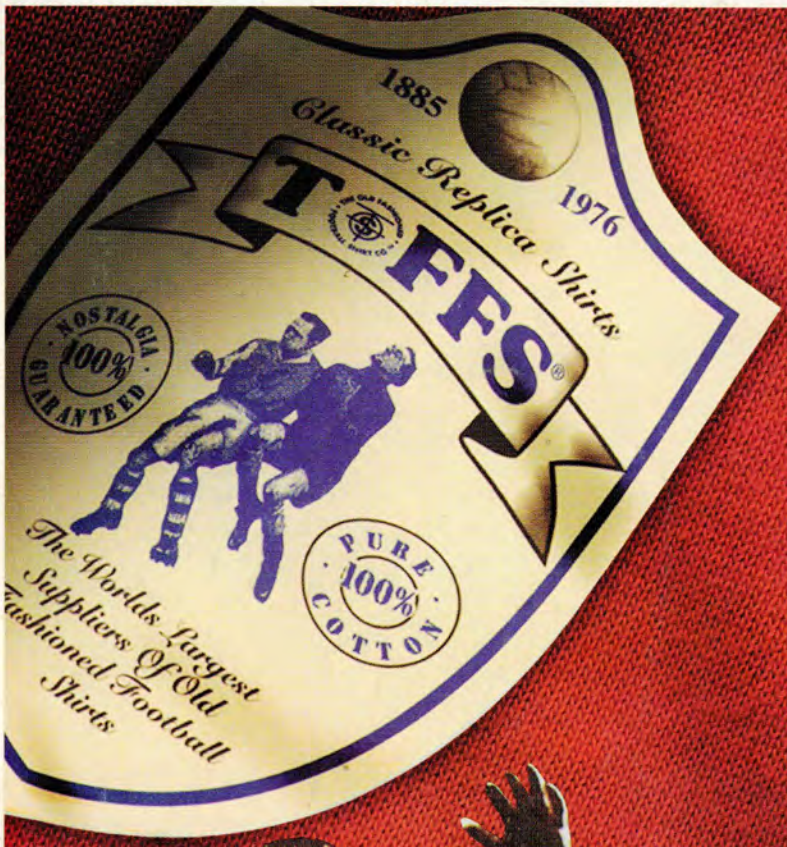


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